

On Thursday and Friday the informal meeting of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs took place in Barcelona. SOLIDAR - through the Social Platform - addressed the Troika Presidency from Spain, Belgium and Hungary.

Besides welcoming the rehabilitation of the idea of the welfare state by the Spanish Minister Corvacho, the delegation of social NGOs present in the meeting underlined the need to focus the EU's 2020 strategy more on social cohesion and active inclusion; putting policies in place to face the social consequences of the crisis, to look for exit strategies focusing on the creation of decent jobs, to invest in education and training and active inclusion.

In order to make these policies happen, social NGOs proposed a joint high visibility event on the social dimension of the crisis which should involve the Economic and Financial Affairs Council as the financial decision will condition the possibilities of putting into practice, not only the wording, but the strategies and policies. Let us use the window of opportunities of this year's EU Presidencies to push social Europe forwards!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## NEW FORMAT: 10th SOLIDAR SILVER ROSE AWARDS

**What?** [10th SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards](#)

**When?** Wednesday 3th of February 2010

**Where?** European Parliament, Members Dining Room, Altiero Spinelli Building, Ground Floor, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels

**New Format?** No tables, open to all and shorter (18:45 to 20:00 followed by a reception).

**Register?** If you have not yet registered, please [register](#) through our online tool.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### TAKE ACTION FOR HAITI

With the humanitarian crisis currently hitting Haiti, SOLIDAR has two options that you can do to take action. Firstly, you can donate money to the [Haiti Emergency Fund](#) which SOLIDAR has set up to collect contributions for our members and partners directly active in Haiti to bring effective humanitarian assistance to the people in need (read the [full list](#) of our active members).

Secondly, European NGO Eurodad has launched a campaign calling on governments and International Financial Institutions to unconditionally cancel Haiti's remaining debt of \$890 million. And that, most importantly, disaster relief should under no condition be provided as new loans ([read more](#)). You can take action by sending a [letter](#) to your Finance Minister opposing the IMF's increase in current lending for emergency assistance in Haiti.

### BANKING AND FINANCE SECTORS NEED RESTRUCTURING NOW

This week (27-31 January 2010) the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting opened in Davos, Switzerland. Trade unions and civil society will use the occasion to maintain pressure on governments to act urgently to tackle the deepening global employment crisis, and to continue struggles to reform and restructure the banking and finance sector.

Additionally, they will challenge the business world to work with governments and unions to create decent jobs and to support financial reform. Special attention will go to executive pay, especially bonuses in the banking sector, which cause outrage and incomprehension around the world.

SOLIDAR is concerned about the way the financial and banking sector is dealing with the current economic crisis. Expectations are that job losses will continue throughout 2010. This will have terrible consequences for those who are already at the bottom of society, while at the same time the highest-paid in the finance sector rip massive bonuses out of the system for themselves. This situation is completely unacceptable and cries out for change. [Read the ITUC's article.](#)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

## SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ON EP AGENDA

SOLIDAR participated in a hearing ([programme](#)) held on 27 January in the European Parliament to prepare an own-initiative report on public procurement and service concessions to be issued in early February by EP rapporteur Heide Rühle (Greens/EFA, Germany).

Speakers highlighted two requests (shared by SOLIDAR): the need for European law to actively promote the "economically most advantageous" tendering mechanism; as well as the need to include an explicit recognition of a broad range of admissible social considerations and obligations, for example to pay wages not undercutting those fixed in generally applicable collective agreements. [Further reading.](#)

## DECENT WORK & QUALITY JOBS WEBPAGE

SOLIDAR is carrying out a project on decent work and quality jobs in Europe which aims to contribute to the debate on industrial relations and social dialogue in Europe. You can now read more about it, and get the latest news and resources on the [SOLIDAR webpage](#) dedicated to the topic. There is also a [newsletter](#) which you can read and subscribe to.

### MEMBERS NEWS

## VOLUNTEUROPE SEMINARS

The first in the series of short seminars in 2010, organised by Volonteurope and supported by our European partners, was held on 27 January in Brussels at the EESC. Entitled "[Impact of Volunteering: Beyond GDP](#)", this 2-hour seminar looked at volunteering as an active ingredient of the EU 2020 Strategy, as well as of the next ESF Programme 2014-2020.

Key messages from the seminar were that the contribution of volunteers and the voluntary sector has to be recognised in the EU and in Member States as a major source of social capital creation and that combating social exclusion, including through volunteering, is made one of the key priorities alongside the economic growth objective in the EU 2020 Strategy. A report from the seminar will follow shortly.

The next Volonteurope seminar, on "Effective Mechanisms for Citizens' Consultations in the EU", will be delivered together with our Dutch partners, Humanitas, and will take place in Amsterdam on Monday 22 March 2010 (14:00-17:00).

Read [ARCI newsletter](#)

### PARTNERS NEWS

**Bangladesh Dalit Human Rights and One World Action** have launched '[Defiant Voices](#)' a landmark online photo exhibition illustrating the daily lives of Dalit communities in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Bangladesh Dalit Human Rights is working in partnership with One World Action to tackle caste discrimination in Bangladesh.

### AGENDA

3	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, Brussels
4-5	SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Brussels
4	SOLIDAR India Consortium, Brussels
5	SOLIDAR Middle East Working Group, Brussels
9	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels

SOLIDAR is a European network of 53 NGOs and labour movement organisations. Working in cooperation with progressive civil society and trade unions, SOLIDAR promotes equality, solidarity and social justice in the fields of social affairs, international cooperation and education. SOLIDAR's Weekly Round Up provides you with the latest information and news from the SOLIDAR Network.

If you have any comments or wish to have further information on any of the articles featured in the Weekly Round Up, please do not hesitate to contact [SOLIDAR's Communications Officer](#)

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