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EU Heads of State meeting in Brussels yesterday and today have agreed to coordinate financial support to help Greece face its debt problems. At Germany's insistence the mechanism will only be used as a last resort, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) contributing to about a third of the total. SOLIDAR is very disappointed by this lack of solidarity from Germany which we believe is endangering the European Social Model. Greece and other countries need to have access to a path to recovery that would not be dictated to by market speculators.

We have seen how the IMF works. Take the example of Latvia, where in the original IMF programme in 2008 it was agreed that social protection spending would not be cut, but later revisions to the agreement ended up calling for cuts in all areas. We therefore fully support the PES in their call for progressive recovery policies, true to the founding principle of the European Union: solidarity

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DECENT WORK IS VITAL FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs

Addressing the ILO Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalisation earlier this week, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark stated that in order to achieve the first MDG (Millennium Development Goal) of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, more and better jobs will need to be created. At the same time Helen Clark stressed that decent work is not only important for MDG 1, it is important for meeting other MDGs too. [Read more.](#)

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN BATTLE BANKERS IN BRUSSELS

This Thursday (25 March) campaigners for a "Robin Hood Tax" on financial transactions staged a live struggle in which Robin Hood and his band of merry men (and women) try to wrest money from selfish bankers, to help finance aid for the climate and the poor. Activists dressed as EU Heads of States threw their weight around and decided which way the tug-of-war goes - will the money go to people and the planet, or will it remain in the hands of bankers and speculators?

[Read about SOLIDAR's position.](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EP REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES AND MINIMUM INCOME IN THE PIPELINE

In parallel to and part of the controversial Europe 2020 Strategy debates, the Employment Guidelines report will be squeezed into an extremely short time frame between the middle and end of April. The legal report will be drafted referring to a proposal from the European Commission expected on 31 March.

Work on the reports "Combating poverty and minimum income" and "The future of social services of general interest" has just started. The report on social services will refer to policy commitments made by Member States for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Both reports should be adopted in plenary in autumn 2010.

EP REPORT ON ATYPICAL CONTRACTS DISCUSSED BY EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The draft report "[Atypical contracts, secured professional pathways, flexicurity and new forms of social dialogue](#)" was discussed in the Employment Committee at the beginning of March. The report deals with the questions of how to best organise the appropriate framework conditions to inclusive labour markets and for decent working and living conditions for all in Europe in times of crisis (e.g. different forms of non-standard employment or skills and training to support sustainable employment, also considering the role of social dialogue).

MEMBERS

[CSV/Volonteurope & Humanitas](#) held a seminar 'The Library Dialogue: Effective consultation

with citizens in the EU' on 24 March. They looked at effective models for consulting civil society organisations at Member State level across the EU and identified the work needed to be done to ensure that citizens' and civil societies' voices are heard. Further seminars will follow to explore the subject in Paris, Antwerp, London and Bucharest.

CSV/Volonteurope calls for [workshop proposals](#) for the 19th European Volonteurope Conference on 21-24th October 2010 in Athens. [Register now!](#)

AWO issued in a [press release](#) demanding that the German Government supports the target to lift 20 million people out of poverty in the EU2020 Strategy.

AWO also issued a [press release](#) on minimum income for long-term care staff in Germany.

In 2009 **FEPS** launched a call for papers addressing PhD and PhD candidates to elaborate on how they saw Europe in a decade, within the framework of its Next Left programme. The first release of [Queries](#) was recently published and contains a selection of the most interesting pieces.

LegaCoopBund issued a [press release](#) on 'Social cooperatives: on to new banks'

UNISON supports the International call for a Fair and Just Labour Law in Iraq. [Support them!](#)

Read the **ARCI** [Newsletter](#)

PARTNERS

FEANTSA is organising an event which will involve a hearing and debate of the launch of their 'Ending Homelessness' campaign and of 'Ending homelessness: a handbook for policy makers' on 14 April in the European Parliament (Brussels). [Programme](#) | [Invitation](#) | [Register](#)

ITUC launched a [Youth Campaign](#).

A group of 13 Spanish organisations and social platforms are organising the **European Civic Days 2010** 'For a European Social Citizenship' in Malaga. Read more about it ([ES](#)) and participate!

JOBs

SOLIDAR is looking for a [Project Officer - Migration and Development](#)

SOLIDAR is also looking for an [intern for our International Cooperation Department](#)

ITUC has a vacancy for a full-time position as [Senior Economist](#) in the ITUC head office, working in the Economic and Social Policy Department.

AGENDA

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| 14-15 | EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference and General Assembly, Barcelona |
| 15 | FIC Conference 'Faces of Poverty in Europe', Copenhagen |
| 22 | Social Platform General Assembly, Brussels |
| 7-9 | European Civic Days 'Towards a European Social Citizenship', Malaga |
| 12 | Annual General Assembly SOLIDAR, Brussels |
| 18 | DWIR Transnational Conference on Decent Work and Migration in Europe, Naples |
| 27 | DWIR Project Final Conference, Bucharest |
| 9 | DWIR Round Table on Decent Work and Quality Jobs in Europe, Brussels |
| 17-18 | Social Affairs Committee and Seminar on Volunteering, London |

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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