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**Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 21-05-2010**

## CAMPAIGN FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX (FTT) GETS LARGER SUPPORT!

Austrian chancellor Werner Faymann and the head of the German Social-Democratic party, Sigmar Gabriel, publically supported a European citizen's initiative in favour of the FTT. At the same time, President Obama also started a project to reform the financial markets and Germany has taken unilateral measures to reduce speculation.

SOLIDAR has been involved in this topic since the launch of the FTT campaign (and the Robin Hood campaign) and we will continue to mobilise our constituency in favour of the FTT. Today everyone speaks about the necessary financial consolidation and austerity policies including its negative effects on public and social expenditure, however there is an urgent need for a social consolidation, for which the FTT is a step in the right direction. The citizens' initiative, a new instrument of participatory democracy enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, is a way to mobilise the public opinion in Europe and to put pressure on the European institutions concerning a regulation of the financial markets and a FTT.

We remind all those who think that the citizens' initiative is not an appropriate instrument for parties, that the initiative embraces a larger coalition also strongly involving trade unions and civil societies, not only political parties from the center-left.

Support the Europeans for Financial Regulations campaign to [Regulate Global Finance Now!](#)

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DEMANDS MORE POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

This week, during its plenary session in Strasbourg, the European Parliament adopted Ska Keller's (MEP Greens) report on [Policy Coherence for Development](#). The Socialist & Democrats, the Greens/EFA and the GUE groups voted in favor, while the EPP and the ECR groups voted against. Especially article 44 (blaming the reintroduction of EU subsidies on dairy products) faced tougher opposition. [Read more.](#)

### SPECIAL EVENT ON THE QUADRIFOGLIO

This week, SOLIDAR participated to a special event organised by CONCORD on the Quadrifoglio, which is a structured dialogue between the European Commission, the European Parliament, Member States and Civil society organizations (CSOs) and local authorities on the involvement of (European and Southern) civil society and local authorities in EC external cooperation. [Read more.](#)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### TRANSNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NAPLES

On 18 May the transnational conference on migrant and posted workers was held in Naples, within the framework of the '[Decent Work & Industrial Relations](#)' project. The conference was hosted by CGIL and organized by SOLIDAR, alongside PROGETTO SVILUPPO and IRES gathered trade unions affiliates and several migrants' associations, coping with several issues around working conditions. [Read more.](#)

## SOLIDAR SECRETARIAT

The SOLIDAR Secretariat welcomes **Steffi Rosenbusch**, the new 'Project Officer - Migration and Development'. Welcome to our team!

## MEMBERS

**Lega Coop Bund** is organising an [initiative](#) to raise awareness for organisations confiscating assets from criminal groups on 25 May, Bolzano

**CSV/Volonteurope** is organising the 19th Volonteurope European Workshop on Voluntary Action in Athens on 21-24 October. [Register](#) | [Programme](#)

**AWO** published two press releases last week. The [first article](#) contains an assessment of recent policy initiatives in the fields of long-term care, the [second article](#) concerns labour market inclusion in Germany and proposals on how to reorient policies. Find more press releases [here](#).

**AWO** also issued a [position paper](#) on how to improve the labour market inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

**Pour La Solidarité** published a working paper '[La stratégie Europe 2020 en question](#)'

Read the **Leo Lagrange Federation** [Blocnotes](#)

## PARTNERS

**CONCORD** is launching a petition '[Keep your promises to the poor](#)'. Now it is time to stand up and take responsibility as the Member States fail to pay the development aid that they have promised to pay!

Europeans for Financial Reform: read the [declaration](#) of the meeting on 18 May by **Green-GMB-IUF-UNI**

**PES** published a [statement](#) on German and Austrian Social Democrats announcement of a European Citizen's initiative on a Financial Transaction Tax.

The group of 13 Spanish organisations and social platforms who organised the **European Civic Days 2010**, held on 7-8-9 May in Malaga, published an [article](#) stating that the conference was a real success.

**Elisabeth Schroedter and Reinhard Bütkofer** (MEPs, Greens/European Free Alliance) are organising a debate on green jobs and decent work on 10 June in the European Parliament. Trade Unions, employer organisations as well as Guyla Hegyi from the Cabinet of EU Commissioner Andor will discuss how to ensure good working conditions in the new sustainable sectors and how to ensure that transition is manage socially just. [Consult the Programme](#) | [More info](#)

In the context of this weeks EU- LAC summit in Madrid, the **Belgian Trade Unions CSC, FGTB and CGSLB and other NGOs** issued a statement ([NL](#) | [FR](#)) in which they demand the non-ratification of the EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and of the bilateral investment treaty (BIT) between Belgium and Colombia.

## AGENDA

27	DWIR Project Final Conference, Bucharest <a href="#">Programme</a>   <a href="#">Practical information</a>
9	DWIR Round Table on Decent Work and Quality Jobs in Europe, Brussels
17-18	Social Affairs Committee and Seminar on Volunteering, London
24-25	European Integration Forum, Brussels (EESC)

*SOLIDAR is a European network of 52 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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