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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 25-06-2010

This weekend, leaders of the G20 will meet in Toronto, Canada. At the last EU Summit on 17 June, EU leaders said that 'the introduction of a global Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) should be explored and developed further in that context.' But what does this mean? Is it just an expression of a generous idea or rather a concrete commitment?

Within the EU2020 Strategy, the EU has finally agreed on 'jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' by emphasising on concrete targets like employment rate, education and poverty reduction. For the G20 they have translated it into 'boost competitiveness, consolidate public finances and reforming the financial sector.' Concerning social inclusion policies and the need for investment in social infrastructure, Member States refer to the need for financial and fiscal consolidation to justify cuts in public and social expenditure in the frame of austerity programmes, while social cohesion and an inclusive society generally come second.

SOLIDAR, together with partners of the FTT campaign, expects the 0.05% tax to be put forward in Toronto and that real commitment will be shown. The employment rate should be back on track and decent work and quality employment should be central in designing and implementing policies. The exit of the crisis needs social consolidation through social investment!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOLIDAR CONTRIBUTES TO EP REPORT ON ATYPICAL CONTRACTS, FLEXICURITY AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

In March, SOLIDAR, together with the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), had a meeting with rapporteur Pascale Gruny (EPP, France) to discuss on her report **"Atypical contracts, secured professional pathways, flexicurity and a new form of social dialogue"**.

Several amendments were suggested by SOLIDAR, building on our insights and recommendations developed in the framework of our project **'Decent Work & Industrial Relations'**. The amendments aim at setting up or defending framework conditions and measures to promote inclusive labour markets, safeguarding decent work for all and extending the coverage by collective bargaining. In early June, most of these amendments were taken up in a **compromise**. [Read more](#).

VOICES OF PRECARIOUS WORKERS IN BRUSSELS

On 21 June, SOLIDAR organised a meeting at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in which four workers living precarious working conditions were given centre-stage to share their experiences and suggestions of how to improve working conditions around Europe.

This event has shown how important it is to involve people directly witnessing precarious working conditions in order to better address the challenge of creating and defending quality jobs as well as to promote decent work and to cope with what is lacking in EU policy strategies, such as EU2020 and the Employment Guidelines, and the EU legal framework. [Read more about the event...](#)

REACTING TO THE CRISIS TOGETHER

The S&D groups is organising a [seminar](#) 'Reacting to the crisis together: reflections from the labour movement and civil society' on 28 June in the European Parliament, Brussels.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE GLOBAL JOBS CRISIS

On 21 June, leaders from international and major NGOs and academics met at a conference

organised by the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Global Trade and Financial Architecture (GTFA) on 'Globalisation and employment in the light of shocks' in Geneva. During the event, the ILO launched a new publication entitled 'Trade and Employment in the Global Jobs Crisis' by Marion Jansen, co-ordinator of the ILO's Trade and Employment Programme and Erik Von Uexkull, ILO economist.

SOLIDAR shares the conclusions of the study that in times of crisis emphasis should be given to strengthening social protection systems which contribute to minimising the negative effects of global volatility. [Read more.](#)

COLOMBIA AND THE EU: WHAT NEXT?

On 22 June, a press conference was organised by the vice-president of the European Parliament (EP) Isabelle Durant, on the activities of the Security Service Agency of Colombia (DAS) in Europe. The Colombian government has been denying allegations concerning tracking and phone tapping MEPs and also concerning the existence of 'Operation Europe', an attempt by DAS to discredit human rights NGOs, citizens and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and subcommittee for Human Rights at the European Parliament.

Isabelle Durant, together with European and Colombian NGOs, demanded the creation of a special committee to investigate the alleged espionage by DAS in Europe. Further, several NGOs present at the press conference asked the EU to take concrete steps, such as the suspension of the negotiations concerning the free trade agreement (FTA) with Colombia.

MEMBERS

AWO and **ISS** issued a [press release](#) 'Statt Kürzen endlich effiziente Konzepte für den Übergang Schule-Beruf'. In the article they warn for the risks cuts in existing programmes can have, including their negative impact on early school leavers and low-qualified adolescents.

AWO, together with other networks and the German Federal Trade Union Confederation, issued a [declaration](#), in which they protest against the recent measures proposed by the Federal government in the framework of austerity measures.

FIC, AOF and Social Politisk Forening have produced an exhibition called 'Faces of Poverty in Europe' with 9 quick screens to be used in a lot of places in Denmark as part of the year against poverty. [Contact](#) | [More information about the past FIC event on the EY2010](#).

SI is supporting an [initiative](#) called 'Encuentro de emprendedoras africanas y españolas. Hacia el empoderamiento económico', organised on 25,26 and 27 June in Madrid.

Read [ARCI Newsletter](#)

PARTNERS

ITUC issued a [press release](#) 'The world's youth demand decent work'

ITUC issued another [press release](#) 'The ITUC - Representing workers in the globalised economy'

ITUC issued a third [press release](#) 'Now the people - from the crisis to global justice'

Europeans for Financial Reform are launching a [twitter storm](#) to call for the introduction of a global financial transaction tax, 22-26 June

ENoP is organising a [public conference](#) 'Innovative tools to promote external assistance - new media in development education & democracy support' on 15 September, Brussels

Read the [Social Platform Weekly Update](#)

AGENDA

24-25 European Integration Forum, Brussels (EESC)
8-10 EU4U Conference, Linz (Austria)

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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