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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 15-07-2010

VICTORY WITHIN MINUTES?

Victory within minutes! This news comes from a country which is more linked to the killing of union activists: Pakistan. Our partner in Pakistan, Labour Education Foundation, reports on a successful textile workers strike ([read more](#)). Such a victory should also inspire other workers as it shows that even during a deep crisis, it pays to unionise, to struggle and to stand up for rights!

Facing the crisis in Europe means that progressive parties, civil society and unions will need more patience to achieve a change of paradigm which is beyond GDP and which ensures the wellbeing of citizens. In the last 6 months we have achieved progress in giving the European Union a more social and inclusive dimension with the Europe 2020 strategy. The question now will be whether this progress will not be sacrificed by blind austerity measures and programmes applied in the member states.

The Commission proposal for a directive for establishing common entry and residence conditions for third-country seasonal workers is welcome when it helps to keep the social level high, to prevent from exploitation and to protect health and safety at work ([listen to RFI interview on the topic](#)). That's one side. Dismanteling social and health protection as proposed by the Stoiber High Level Group and denounced by the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers is the other side of the coin.

For some of us it is time for a summer break. We are aware that this is a privilege and this awareness is not just because it is the European Year against poverty, Eurostat figures show that in 2008 over 30% of EU citizens could not afford to pay for one week annual holiday away from home. The agenda will again be very intensive for the second half of this year.

We see the progress and the fruit of our work and look forward to continuing to face the social challenges in Europe and worldwide with our members, our partners from the progressive political parties, the unions and civil society as well as our allies in the European Parliament and the European institutions.

The weekly round up is also going on holiday and will be back with you at the beginning of September.

In solidarity,

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

MEMBERS AREA

AWO welcomes the decision of the German Federal Government to introduce, as of 1 August 2010, a minimum wage for workers in the long-term care sector in a [press release](#).

Read the [Arci newsletter](#)

PARTNERS NEWS

The Parliament Magazine is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the **MEP Awards 2010**. The Parliament Magazine's MEP Awards, now in their sixth year, are your opportunity to review and reward the achievements of MEPs during the first full year of the new parliament.

Nominations are now open to all European trade and professional associations and interest groups working in sector-specific areas. Organisations should nominate the MEPs they feel have done exceptionally good work in their policy area. To become involved, please nominate now at: www.theparliament.com/mepawards

If you would like any further information about the awards, please contact Rachel Hewett at: Rachel.Hewett@dods.eu or +32 (0)2 285 0922

Join the 8th Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum from 2-5 October 2010 in Brussels.

The **PES in the Committee of the Regions** are holding their **annual photo competition** to help bring young citizens closer to Europe. "In search of solidarity" is an opportunity for Young Europeans to have their say on the European year for combatting poverty and social exclusion.

CGIL is organising an international conference on Palestine/Israel - Humanitarian crisis, worker's rights, political scenarios and alternatives to end the conflict and the violence circle freezing the peace solution in the Middle East region - at CGIL (sala Di Vittorio) Corso d'Italia 25, Roma on Wednesday 21 July 2010 from 10:00 - 14:00.

The **CTUWS "Workers Speech" Magazine** No. 100 is available now in Arabic.

AGENDA

15	SOLIDAR Conference: Making migration work for development in the European Parliament, Brussels
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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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