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## HUMAN RIGHTS: SHOCKING AND INSULTING?

It is shocking how the Roma are being treated in France! The English word used to describe this kind of forced move is "deportation" and it reminds us of the dark past of this continent. Yes, France is the first country to have put human rights into their constitution - the same constitution on which the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights was based - but then you would think that the forerunner of human rights should also then vigorously apply them and be the frontrunner? In their recent statements, both Commissioner Reding and Commission President Barroso were absolutely right to refer to the European Union as a values-based region.

The Roma population are not only stigmatised in France, stories from many other European countries bear witness to this (see more on Silver Rose award winners [ERRC website](#)). And yet, they are citizens of the European Union too and have equal rights and duties, like any other EU citizen. Commissioner Reding's condemnation of France's actions is welcome, and now we would like to see action.

Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité! Yes, for all!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### EP REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT GUIDELINES VOTED

On 8 September, the EP adopted a report on the new employment guidelines - in which SOLIDAR has been involved - by an overwhelming majority of 566 votes to 59 with 66 abstentions. The employment guidelines will be implemented by EU Member States in the coming four years as part of the integrated guidelines for the Europe 2020 Strategy, being the tool to implement the [five headline targets](#). [Read more about these guidelines](#).

### Q&A ON EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE

On Wednesday, SOLIDAR's Secretary General participated in a hearing of the GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament on the European Citizens' Initiative. Commissioner Sefcovic, present at the meeting, defended the Commission's proposal circulated at the end of March 2010, but many other speakers present expressed their concern that this excellent initiative in participatory democracy created by the Lisbon Treaty may produce a bureaucratic monster or become a toothless tiger. [Read the Questions &Answers](#).

### JAN CREMERS: ' THE EU AND ITS 'EXIT' STRATEGIES UNDERMINE OUR POLITICAL GOAL OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES'

Jan Cremers, researcher at the Amsterdam Institute of Advanced Labour Institute (AIAS) and Chair of the SOLIDAR Advisory Group, recently published an [article](#) on 'Non-standard employment relations or the erosion of workers rights'. In this paper he uses parts of his research in recent years, including the [SOLIDAR paper](#) in which he explores several issues linked to the spread of atypical contracts and the consequent erosion of income security and job quality.

## MIGRATION

### KICK-OFF CONFERENCE: 'DECENT WORK FOR ALL: MAKING MIGRATION WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT'

Wednesday (15 September) saw the kick-off conference for the SOLIDAR/Global Progressive Forum project on "[Decent work for all: Making Migration work for Development](#)". The event brought together representatives from all the European institutions with the project partners and other interested stakeholders and included a keynote speech by the Secretary of State for Immigration and Emigration of Spain, Anna Terrón i Cusí. She spoke about Spain experiencing a

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