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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 05-11-2010

CHANGING EUROPE?

In mid-October, the EU presented the Budget Review as the result of a year-long process. But the declared aim of the document "[changing Europe](#)" does not seem to be shared equally by all the Member States. Commissioner Lewandowski's appeal for new funds generated not by the Member States but by the EU itself and at the same time increasing the budget causes resistance by the usual suspects. However, the opposition - in particular from the UK and The Netherlands - is not really understandable, but clearer when one looks at the political parties making up the majority of these governments.

If the Council can agree on the right recipe to tax the financial instruments (this was once again postponed in the recent [Council](#) to December), such an income could prevent possible future crises and hence an inevitable consolidation of public finances like the Member States are going through right now. There is still the outstanding question of what we have learnt from the crisis and what needs to be changed? With the EU once again declaring its dedication to combating poverty, such a rise in funding would open the possibility for investing in social infrastructure to meet social needs and promote social cohesion.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SINGLE MARKET ACT

Last week (27 October), the Commission put forward a proposal for how it can be re-launched with the [Single Market Act](#), a Communication "for a highly competitive social market economy". SOLIDAR has mixed feeling about the paper, welcoming the mention of certain issues such as the role of the social economy, but clearly noticing the lack of reference to other necessary items, such as the strengthening of the social dimension of the single market. [Read more...](#)

10% OF EUROPEAN COMPANIES ARE SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES

Last week (27-28 October) SOLIDAR participated in the European conference on the social economy, held under the Belgian EU Presidency. The event looked at the role of the social economy in promoting the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups into the labour market and hence to empower them and to improve their participation in society. SOLIDAR welcomes the demands and recommendations addressed to European policy makers in the [conclusions](#) and [recommendations](#) from the conference. [Read more.](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

EUROPEAN REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT ACKNOWLEDGES SOCIAL PROTECTION AS KEY TO REDUCE POVERTY

The [European Report on Development](#) is an initiative by the European Commission/DG Development and seven EU Member States (Germany, Finland, France, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) to better harness research for EU development policy. This Thursday, researchers from developed and developing countries discussed the draft report 2010, which focuses on poverty, inequality and social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa.

As part of the Decent Work Agenda and to achieve the MDGs, SOLIDAR together with our partners in the Global Network [advocate for](#) the extension of social protection schemes in national poverty reduction/economic growth policies through EU donor policy as an effective tool to protect vulnerable groups in times of crises and to break the poverty cycle in the long-term.

EDUCATION

JOIN THE SOLIDAR WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION

SOLIDAR is organizing a workshop on education in developing countries. The workshop will be held in Brussels on 12-13 January 2011.

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