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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR LABOUR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN TRADE DEALS

Yesterday the European Parliament adopted reports calling on the European Commission to include clauses on human rights, labour and environmental standards in international trade agreements. This is a significant step forward and we congratulate the S&D Group for having led that battle. Since the 2005 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, SOLIDAR has been actively involved in the campaign for Decent Work for a Decent Life, as well as calling for the inclusion of binding human and labour rights clauses in trade agreements.

We need to ensure that people anywhere in the world have their human rights, including a right to a decent job, upheld, and we call on the European Commission to include the requests made in these reports in their upcoming communication on CSR as well as in the ongoing trade negotiations. Trade policy should promote sustainable development without focusing exclusively on opening markets for European companies. The new [EU trade agenda](#), launched on 9 November, is still far from this ambitious goal.

In parallel, we encourage progressives, free unions and civil society in China and other major manufacturing hubs to struggle for these rights to be implemented there!

Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR Secretary General

SILVER ROSE 2011

## SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2011 - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OPEN

Each year, the [SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards](#) celebrates individuals and organisations whose extraordinary struggles contribute to social justice and solidarity in Europe and throughout the world.

If you have individuals or organisations that you would like to nominate, please fill in the [nomination form](#) and send it back to us **by next Tuesday 30 November 2010**.

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### MAJOR INCONSISTENCIES REVEALED IN EC'S APPROACH TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

A Working Group made up of trade unions and social and environmental NGOs, including SOLIDAR, have put forward an [evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the EU Procurement legislation and policy](#) currently underway in Internal Market Directorate of the European Commission. The contribution reflects experiences of the group across a number of issue and policy areas related to public procurement. It precedes the publication of a [Commission Handbook on Socially-Responsible Public Procurement](#) now awaited for December 2010. [Read more...](#)

### ESF: THE ROAD AHEAD

The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union organised last week (18-19 November) a [Conference](#) on the role of the European Social Fund (ESF) in fight against poverty and social exclusion. Participants from all over Europe met to exchange ideas and good practices, to discuss how and where the ESF allowed for vulnerable groups to re-enter the labour market, to combat discrimination, and to support training and active inclusion. During the various workshops, examples of ESF projects and expert reports were presented. [Read more...](#)

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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