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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 08-04-2011

Another human tragedy happened on Wednesday (6 April) off the coast of Lampedusa, when a boat carrying between 200-300 migrants capsized on their way from Libya, leaving 20 confirmed dead and 130 more still unaccounted for. Human tragedies are not foreseen in the Stockholm Programme on Migration and Asylum; just as political transformation processes are not planned, but simply happen.

The EU is opening one hand to so-called "qualified migrants" that we need to fill a demographic gap and meet the needs of a qualified workforce for the labour market. But on the other side, Member States are just turning their eyes away from the human tragedies happening in Lampedusa and elsewhere. The Stockholm Programme states that handling migration flows is a question of solidarity between Members States, but there is no sign of solidarity with these people who are scared of being sent back to their countries.

Human beings will continue to look for more certainty, for a chance to secure decent work and a decent life. You cannot build a wall on water, but the EU should invest in these countries. And we, as SOLIDAR, will focus with our members and the PES on support for progressive forces in these countries just across the Mediterranean, to help them secure political change and open the pathway to stability, freedom and social justice.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOLIDAR'S SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SETS FUTURE PRIORITIES

Yesterday, SOLIDAR's Social Affairs Committee (SAC), consisting of Member organisations, met to discuss future aims and strategies within the Social Policy field, current challenges in providing quality social services in the framework of the internal market, the national implementation of EU's strategies on new skills/new jobs and poverty reduction, and the importance of EU Structural Funds in promoting social inclusion. The members also decided to focus on how to improve the use of EU Structural Funds in the next funding period (2014-2020) and on the EU 2020 social inclusion targets in the upcoming SAC meetings in 2011.

CONNY REUTER RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL PLATFORM

On 5 April, Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, was re-elected as President of the Social Platform at their Annual General Assembly.

"I am very honoured by the mandate given by Social Platform members for the third time. Our main challenges over the next period are: facing the effects of the crisis by keeping the focus on the social dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy, ensuring a social orientation for the next financial framework of the EU and securing financial support for civil dialogue and social NGOs."

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLIDAR GLOBAL NETWORK PAKISTAN CLAIMS BETTER STATUS FOR HOME BASED WOMEN WORKERS

The Home Based Women Workers Federation in Pakistan (HBWWF) is organising its 1st Annual Convention on 11 April 2011 in Karachi, focusing on the fact that there are still 20 million informal and home-based women workers (HBWW) in Pakistan who do not benefit from any legal protection and often no access to health facilities, as national law does not recognise them as workers.

The Convention will present the following demands to Government representatives (1) a national policy on HBWW; (2) the ratification of ILO Convention 177; (3) the recognition of HBWW as workers and protection under the labour Laws and (4) access to social security. To cope with the situation, Labour Education Foundation (member of SOLIDAR's **Global Network**), National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) and Home Net Pakistan (HNP) helped these women to set up a Federation which is today officially recognised by the National Industrial Relation Commission.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR SUSTAINED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND BETTER LOCAL OWNERSHIP FOR HAITI

The UN Security Council which met on 6 April "called on the international community to continue supporting Haitian authorities strengthen core governance structures and ensure that vulnerable people had access to basic social services, justice and protection", given the precarious situation in the country. It also reiterated that genuine stability and sustainable development in Haiti will require a progressive transfer of leadership and management from the hands of foreign charities to local ownership.

These outcomes reflect SOLIDAR's view that reconstruction and transformation towards a more democratic, and economically and socially viable state in the long run, can only take place with the sustained involvement of local civil society and cannot be based on sporadic aid from abroad. The extent of their involvement will thus also depend on the ability of the newly elected President Michel Martelly to ensure that the voices of strong civil society actors present on the ground are heard in this process.

EDUCATION

EVALUATION OF THE COPENHAGEN PROCESS 2002-10

SOLIDAR took part in Cedefop's (the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) Agora Conference "A bridge to the future" on the European policy for Vocational Education and Training (VET) 2002-10. The evaluation of European cooperation in the field of training ([read Cedefop's evaluation report](#)) shows that progress has been made, but still more has to be done to fully realise its potential; that is to say there is a need for a more flexible VET adjusted to the social and economic needs as well as the development of skills forecasts for job markets.

MIGRATION

MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS: FROM MODERN-DAY SLAVERY TO EQUAL PAY

On 4 May, SOLIDAR will organise an expert round table hosted by MEP Birgit Sippel (S&D) entitled "Migrant domestic workers: from modern-day slavery to equal pay" ([register here](#)). With this round table, SOLIDAR brings together important stakeholders and aims to raise awareness on the situation of migrant domestic workers in the EU as a labour market, migration-development and gender issue. The debate will address the challenges to improve the rights and working conditions for migrant workers in the domestic sector in Europe and highlight why EU Member States should support the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. [Read more...](#)

EUROPEANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM

SAY YES ONCE MORE TO A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX!

The Europeans for Financial Reform campaign calling for the introduction of a European Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) is taking its next step: after mobilising citizens ahead of the European Parliament (EP) vote on the issue on 8 March, the coalition is now targeting the European Commission (EC).

Given that only one hour after the EP vote which approved an EU-wide FTT, the Commissioner for Taxation, Mr Algirdas Semeta, openly stated that it would be "irresponsible" to introduce such a tax, the coalition is now calling on citizens to once again voice their opinion on the issue and to reaffirm their support of the outcome in the EP vote. Click [here](#) to call for an immediate implementation of a FTT.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Find out [more](#) about **OGBL Solidarité Syndicale's appeal** for funding in support of the reconstruction efforts in Japan

[Read](#) about **Leo Lagrange's Youth Forum** in Marseille

VoluntEurope has put together a [Review](#) on the Value of Volunteering which looks at the current debate on the value of volunteering in Europe and identifies key areas where volunteering brings positive changes to individuals, communities and economies.

[Read AWO's latest news](#)

[Read ARCI's newsletter](#)

PARTNERS' NEWS

The **European Civic Forum** is organising a **public hearing** on 28 April on the purpose of a European Statute in the Single Market Act and the purpose of a European Statute in the European Civil Dialogue. Click here for [more info](#) and register to anajmowicz@civic-forum.eu before 26 April.

Register for **EUCIS's Annual Conference** on the "role, place, and value given to volunteering in education & training" on 9 May in Krakow

[Read](#) the position paper **"Investing in People through Sustainable and Inclusive EU Programmes"** on future of education, training and youth programmes adopted by 27 major stakeholders in education and training.

Do not miss the launch of **Sphere's Handbook** on Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response at Caritas Europa premises in Brussels on 14 April. To register contact Godelive Kankindi no later than 8 April on gkankindi@caritas-europa.org

See **International Federation of Workers' Education Associations** April [Bulletin](#)

[Register](#) for the upcoming **CEV Symposium**: " The future of volunteering: concepts, trends, visions", organised on 4- 6 May 2011 in Tallinn (Estonia)

AGENDA

13-14 Migration and Development coordination meeting, Brussels

14 SOLIDAR Communication Officers meeting, Brussels

20 Round table on Social protection, Brussels

26-27 SOLIDAR consultation meeting on North Africa, Madrid

4 SOLIDAR round table on Migrant Domestic Workers, Brussels

19-20 Conference on Decent Work Agenda and informal economy, Belgrade

25 International Cooperation Committee, Brussels

26-27 Humanitarian Cooperation Network Seminar, Brussels

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 Communications Officer](#)

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