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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 09-09-2011

The summer period was full of buzz words: transfer union, economic governance, European Monetary Union, speculation, indignation, and - solidarity. The call for solidarity seems to be an old fashioned habit of progressive forces harking back to their values, but difficult to mainstream the concept in member states when public opinion is more oriented towards nationalism and egoism. But solidarity is the backbone of our societies!

Nevertheless the time may have come to turn the crisis into a chance for a progressive change. Within the debate on European economic governance, there are now calls for a third pillar in addition to the economy and finance: social cohesion! Over the last weeks, we have had a taste of the social unrest that result from austerity measures which simply lead to weakening economies, killing growth and raising poverty and exclusion levels.

Therefore we stand with all those who campaign for having a social pillar in European economic governance and call for significant investment in social programmes. Changing the Lisbon Treaty may be one method, but it might be good to first translate the social dimension of Europe 2020 Strategy into practice, and introduce a social pillar into National Reform Programmes. Dare a more social Europe!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

LAUNCH OF SOLIDAR PROJECT ON DECENT WORK AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The current austerity measures implemented by European governments are jeopardising the social infrastructure that vulnerable groups rely on and promoting atypical employment, meaning that more and more people are becoming working poor and increasingly vulnerable. On 21 September, SOLIDAR will launch a new project at a conference in the European Parliament looking at how to improve decent work and quality jobs through effective industrial relations. [Find out more and register.](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IN SOLIDARITY WITH HORN OF AFRICA

More than 12.4 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are currently affected by the famine, which is the most severe food crisis of its type in the world for some two decades.

Rallying with the international community to feed the Horn of Africa, several SOLIDAR members are intervening with relief actions in the field in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

Meanwhile, the SOLIDAR network is gearing up to jointly support the efforts: in cooperation with our German member [Arbeiter Samariter Bund \(ASB\) Germany](#) SOLIDAR set up the joint [SOLIDAR Horn of Africa Solidarity Fund](#) to which members and partners can contribute in support of a joint SOLIDAR action in the region. Find out more about the action on the [SOLIDAR website](#).

UN ANSWERS BEYOND 2015 LETTER

Time is running out quickly for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the debate is intensifying at the international level around whether we need a new set of goals to achieve the objectives outlined in the Millennium Declaration that better take into account the current realities and challenges of the world we live in.

In this context and in the framework of the [Beyond 2015 campaign](#), SOLIDAR co-signed a [letter to the UN Secretary General](#) lobbying the UN to take the lead in the process and to develop a participatory and inclusive process which enables civil society to take part in the development of the post-2015 framework. The UN deputy Secretary General responded to the letter highlighting, among others, that: the UN shares the view that the process needs to be participatory and inclusive, responding to the needs of those most affected by poverty.

EDUCATION

CLOSING CONFERENCE OF THE "NETWORK OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION ACADEMIES - BETTER INFORMATION AND TRAINING FOR TRADE UNIONISTS" PROJECT

On 21 September SOLIDAR is organising a final conference closing the "Network of European Trade Union Academies - Better Information and Training for Trade Unionists" project run by SOLIDAR and the Europäische Akademie der Arbeit (EAda) over the last year.

At the conference, "Social Europe" teaching material will be presented and a debate will be held on lifelong learning for active inclusion into the European Labour Market. Speakers will address the following questions: what are the skills, competences and knowledge that people need in the European Labour Market, how do we equip people with those skills and what is the role of social partners to bridge the gap to the labour market? [Click here to register](#)

ENLARGEMENT

PROMOTING COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

SOLIDAR organised together with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)'s South East Europe office a field visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina to learn more about projects related to the reconstruction of a first aid station (ambulanta) in Tjentiste, social housing and social support measures in the rural areas and initiatives for economic support and social inclusion in Ustikolina. The two day visit included discussions with SOLIDAR members AWO (Germany) and Volkshilfe (Austria) and local partners IDC and EDC (Serbia), SMART (Croatia), LIR (Bosnia) on ways to promote community-based initiatives.

The organisations agreed that increased investments are necessary by the Civil Society Facility under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) for community-based initiatives and activities to counteract the exclusion of people from economic life, social services, social networks and civic participation.

On the same occasion a steering meeting took place with the **Decent Work Balkan Network partners** to plan the work schedule for the autumn.

EUROPEANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM

FTT: PICKING UP AFTER THE SUMMER

While waiting for the European Commission and in parallel the German and French governments to deliver on their promises to each develop a feasible proposal for a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) on the European level, next week a high level meeting will take place at UNESCO in Paris followed by a strategy planning meeting for a European FTT, which will be attended by several national parliamentarians. This will be followed by preparations of the Alter Forum in Nice and Cannes coinciding with the G20 in November.

In the meantime Christine Lagarde, the new director of the IMF, has been welcomed with a letter, signed by many EFR partners, including SOLIDAR, asking her for the possibility of a meeting ahead of the IMF and World Bank annual meeting at the end of September. The letter also referred to the recent and rather positive report published by the IMF on the feasibility of an FTT.

MEMBER'S NEWS

Members, read the first SOLIDAR Members Update on Financial Transaction Tax available in the [Members Area](#). If you do not have a password, contact Abigail (Abigail.goundry@solidar.org)

See **SOLIDAR Suisse** latest [campaign video](#) calling on Nespresso to end the exploitation of coffee pickers

[Join War on Want's](#) event on living wage campaigns across different sectors and countries on 12-13 September in London.

Attend **Institute for Social Work and Social Education** European Conference "Volunteering and gainful employment in Europe" - Challenges and models of organizational and social policy, in Munich on 26-27 October. More info [here](#)

[Read](#) the September newsletter from **AWO International**

[Read](#) newsletter from **Leo Lagrange**

[Read](#) **ARCI's** weekly newsletter

PARTNER'S NEWS

PES Progressive Convention will take place on 25 - 26 November 2011 in Brussels including two full days of political debates, workshops, concerts, exhibitions etc. [Find out more](#).

[Join](#) the **Euro-demonstration** in Wroclaw, Poland on 17 September 2011 organised by **ETUC** in cooperation with the Polish trade union confederations, Solidarnosc and OPZZ against the attack on trade union rights and collective bargaining, and austerity measures.

TACSO publishes [5 manuals](#) for CSOs in the Western Balkans Region on Organisational Development Analysis, Fundraising and Accessing EU Funds, Developing and Managing EU Funded Projects, Advocacy and Policy Influencing for Social Change and CSOs and Citizens' Participation.

See the newly released **TACSO CSO Database** listing different Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the IPA region with information on their mission statement, area of interest, and contact details.

[Read](#) about the **protest march** on 3 September in **Israel** that brought together 460,000 people onto the streets to create a new socio-economic agenda.

Hear **Günter Wallraff** -the inventor of journalistic undercover investigation - talk about his motivation on 21 September in Brussels co-organised with the Confederation of German Trade Unions. To [register](#) contact +32 2 2345786 or anita.lampaert@brussel.goethe.org.

[Join](#) the **International Union of Tenants (IUT)** [event](#) in Brussels on 3 October calling for affordable housing for young people.

[Read](#) **Staffan Nilsson's** -President of the European Economic Social Committee - comment on EESC 2011 Civil Society Prize rewarding civil society initiatives which serve EU values such as diversity, tolerance, solidarity and integration, by seeking to diminish and prevent the societal effects of xenophobia and xenophobic nationalism, which are on the rise in Europe.

EVENTS

21 Round Tables in the EP on achieving Decent Work and Quality Jobs, Brussels

26 SOLIDAR Board Meeting

5 Day of Action in the EP- Migrant Domestic Workers and Social Protection, 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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