

## SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 13-01-2012

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Verzonden: vrijdag 13 januari 2012 12:13

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### NEW YEAR - NEW TREATY - NEW POLICIES?

The end of the year has not been a quiet time for everybody. In particular our thoughts go to the Syrian opposition who is facing the brutal pressure of President Assad's troops; it goes also to the democratic opposition in Hungary which continues to courageously stand against the transition of their country to fascism; and in particular it goes to Haiti where 2 years after the earthquake and despite reconstruction and humanitarian efforts (see article below), the situation is still catastrophic but no longer taken up by Western media.

Back in the EU, discussion has started around the tabled draft of the "Treaty on stability, coordination and governance in the economic and monetary union". This Treaty will oblige contracting Eurozone parties to limit their deficits to 3% of GDP and debts to 60% of GDP, which basically means that financial and fiscal orthodoxy will become binding law. It also gives the option to any contracting country of bringing another country to the European Court of Justice for breaching the rules, increasing the risk of nationalism and egoism between member states.

Furthermore, by giving preference to the inter-governmental method - the Treaty proposal foresees only discussion meetings with representatives of national parliaments in association with representatives of the European Parliament - and with only a mention of the role of the social partners, this proposal is far from addressing the economic and social dimension or guaranteeing democratic governance and control.

This is the time for a vibrant coalition of progressives to set another agenda of social consolidation and social convergence, by in fact finally applying the Europe 2020 Strategy's smart, sustainable and inclusive growth!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

International Cooperation

### HAITI - THE SOLIDARITY CONTINUES

SOLIDAR sadly commemorates the earthquake that hit Haiti on the morning of 11 January 2010, killing more than 220,000 and making over 1.5 million homeless. Two years later, reconstruction still lingers behind promises and expectations. If the situation has improved, the humanitarian situation remains critical with more than 5 million cubic meters of debris cluttering the capital city of Port-au-Prince and 519,000 people living in temporary camps under extremely difficult conditions. Serious underlying issues moreover still lie ahead of the Haitians, with unemployment rates reaching 70% and more than 80% of the population living below the poverty line.

Since the direct aftermath of the earthquake SOLIDAR is holding strong in its solidarity with Haiti. SOLIDAR members are still present on the ground working to support the population and the building of a better future for Haiti. You can [read more about our work](#).

Social Affairs

**LAUNCHED: PROJECT PROMOTING EMPLOYERS' SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS IN SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

On Monday, SOLIDAR kicked-off a project coordinated by EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) focusing on raising awareness of the major contribution that the social services sector makes to employment and growth in Europe, as well as the need for quality jobs in the sector - which is currently under increased pressure from private competition and the reduced capacities of the public sector due to the effects of austerity policies in the Member States. The project aims to redress the lack of qualitative and quantitative data on labour and social dialogue issues in the sector of social services in Europe from the perspective of the employers.

In a first step, project partners will collect information on existence, functioning and organisation of social dialogue in the sector and promote the exchange of experience and good practices with regard to social dialogue and collective bargaining. After this, good practices to overcome barriers for setting up social dialogue processes and structures where they do not or are insufficient will be identified. This project is the start of a longer process aiming at establishing a representative platform for employers in the social services sector at European level.

**MEMBERS NEWS**

**Pour la Solidarité** is organising a [seminar](#) on "Les primo-arrivants face à l'emploi" on 20 January in Brussels.

**ISCOS** has released a [new report](#) on their project "Safe bridges for migrant workers: Pilot initiatives in moldova and ukraine"

**AEDH**, the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights, has published a press release on "It is urgent to protect democracy and rights in Hungary" in [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [HU](#)

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

Read **Solidarité Laïque**'s [newsletter](#)

**PARTNERS NEWS**

The **European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning** (EUCIS-LLL) has launched a [survey](#) to collect your opinion on stakeholders' consultation and participation in EU policy debates at the national level.

**CONCORD** has released a [new report](#) on the European External Action Service one year on: Work in Progress for poverty eradication

**ARTiT** aims to enable adult educators in developing training modules based on the observation and processing of arts. Read their newsletters [1](#) and [2](#).

**Make Finance Work** coalition on food speculation is promoting a [petition](#) to stop food speculation to the European Parliament's key figure in shaping European financial regulation, Markus Ferber.

**SINTTRAHOL** is organising a [seminar](#) on « Derechos de los trabajadores y las trabajadoras en la migración laboral peruana: Oportunidades y desafíos » today at 14.00 in Lima.

**ENAR** has released a [media statement](#) welcoming the conviction for Stephen Lawrence's murder in the United Kingdom.

**Danish People's Aid** are looking for a [Director for DAARTT in Afghanistan](#)

**Eurochild** are looking for a [Policy Director](#)

**Save the Children UK** is now recruiting a [Senior Food Security & Livelihoods Advisor](#) (ref: 6908)

## AGENDA

Jan  
Feb  
March

- 17 SOLIDAR Board meeting, Paris
- 3 Achieving decent work through industrial relations - low wage sector, Amsterdam
- 9- Achieving decent work through industrial relations - migrants and young people,
- 10 Bucharest
- 22 Decent Work in the Western Balkans, EP, Brussels
- 6 SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, EP, Brussels

*SOLIDAR is a European network of 56 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info <http://www.solidar.org/>*

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