

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 10-02-2012

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**IT'S NOT SHOW TIME, BUT TIME TO ACT FOR EUROPE**

This week we saw a show acted out between the [French President and the German Chancellor](#). As they come from the same political family, it is not surprising that they are supporting each other, but what is concerning is the way the French President seems to be convinced that France should follow the way of Germany - considered Europe's locomotive. This is based on a fundamental error because it neglects the cultural differences between France and Germany and the importance of history.

Working together and promoting Europe in the spirit of Schuman and in spite of differences has been the leitmotiv of many French Presidents and German Chancellors since Adenauer and de Gaulle. But dominating Europe and instructing the other countries by imposing choices, such as the new "fiscal compact" Treaty, is a fundamental risk for Europe. In addition, with all the Greece-bashing going on, one could forget that the reconstruction of Germany after the war was not possible without support from the Marshall plan and others.

History has shown that Europe cannot be built on the dancing Congress of Vienna, but on a community method which takes into consideration the interests of those who make up the European Union. Put people first and make choices that allow smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Safeguard our societies from segmentation and Communitarianism, invest in people and social infrastructure to build inclusive democratic societies, and invest in the real economy and regulate financial markets. Europe needs another Franco-German couple and leadership. Aux urnes citoyens!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

COME & MEET OUR EXTRAORDINARY SILVER ROSE WINNERS 2012

This week, the winners of the 12th edition of the Silver Rose were announced:

- Kaos GL**, an association defending LGTB rights in Turkey.
- Iris Munguia** from Honduras who campaigns for the rights of female workers in the banana industry.
- The Norwegian People** represented by Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg for their reaction to the attacks in July 2011.
- Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, President of the Party of European Socialists (2004-2011) for his contribution to a pan-European movement including progressive civil society.

Read [more about the winners](#) and [register](#)...

SOCIAL AFFAIRS**ADDRESSING THE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF THE CRISIS**

On Thursday, the European Commission presented its study on [Employment and Social Developments in Europe](#). In Commissioner Andor's words, "to respond to Europe's economic crisis effectively and restore sustainable growth, it is essential to address the employment and

social dimensions of the crisis." Indeed, the figures show the high risk of in-work poverty, the growing inequality, and the high levels of poverty and exclusion in the EU. [Read more...](#)

MIGRANTS AND THE QUEST FOR EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FOR DECENT WORK

A transnational seminar took place yesterday (9 February) in Bucharest, investigating the tools and models needed for effective industrial relations with the aim to promote decent work. Within this context, representatives from local authorities, workers' organisations and international stakeholders explored how labour migration policies in sending and receiving countries affect migrants' working conditions. [Read more...](#)

PROMOTING EMPLOYERS' SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS IN SOCIAL DIALOGUE

The project [Promoting employers' social services organisations in social dialogue](#), in which SOLIDAR is a partner, has issued its first [newsletter](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

EU-COLOMBIA & PERU FTA: STILL TIME TO ACT!

The EU-Colombia and Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has raised many controversies during its negotiation process due to, amongst other things, the issue of Colombia and its continued violations of human rights, or the lack of transparency of the Commission, as underlined by the European Council's Legal Service.

The recent good news is that the European Council decided that the agreement is mixed; it will thus need to be ratified by all national and local parliaments in Europe. Once European parliaments have the competency to ratify the agreement, they can review the entire text. This opens the scope considerably to a more transparent and democratic debate in which the [arguments from civil society organisations](#) and movements who have been following closely the whole process can be heard. [Read more.](#)

EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE ROAD TO RIO+20

On 7 and 8 February 2012, the EESC conference "European civil society on the road to Rio+20" took place in Brussels. The [conference message](#) lists the conclusions and comments on the [Rio+20 draft outcome document](#).

During the workshop "A fair transition to a green economy - the social dimension", SOLIDAR Secretary General Conny Reuter urged the EU to support the demand from civil society to put a greater emphasis on the social dimension of sustainable development than envisaged in the Outcome document draft. He also requested to broaden the focus of the debate by shifting the emphasis from poverty eradication to the right to sustainable development.

MIGRATION

CONCORD REACTION TO POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CONCORD has issued a [briefing paper](#) in reaction to the European Commission's Policy Coherence for Development report - to which SOLIDAR contributed to the section on migration. Whilst the Commission's report contained several positive elements including placing an emphasis on human rights and taking employment as a driving factor for migration into account, the report lacks concrete proposals for action.

The migration section of the Commission's report remains overall Eurocentric and prioritises border security. For a truly rights-based approach to migration, international standards, humanitarian protection and addressing the development related push factors of migration - including lack of decent work, unemployment and poverty - need to be the core priorities.

EDUCATION

GLOBAL EDUCATION: THE INTERCULTURAL DIMENSION

The North-South Center of the Council of Europe has launched the call for applications for an [on-line training course](#) on intercultural dialogue. This global education online learning course is designed for education practitioners, social workers, civil society, youth activists, as well as policy and decision makers, local authorities and intercultural cities. It provides an overview on why intercultural education is relevant and needed, what it means in theory and practice and how it can be improved in relation to the context of a globalised world, the local needs, its contents and methodology. The course takes place from 12 March to 15 April, 2012 and the deadline for applications is 2 March.

MEMBERS NEWS

On the first anniversary of the Egyptian "25th of January Revolution", a joint mission of researchers of the NOVA's Institute for Active Nonviolence, Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) and **Solidaridad Internacional** travelled to Egypt for a Fact Finding Mission to assess the level of achievements of the demands of the Egyptian Civil Society from a rights-based approach. The result of this mission is the report: [Egypt under repression](#).

The Make Fruit Fair Campaign, carried out by our UK member **Banana Link**, issued a [press release](#) calling on the EU to regulate supermarket buying practices.

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

[Take action](#) with **War on Want** to save Palestinians' homes in Silwan, East Jerusalem.

AGENDA

March	22 SOLIDAR/ENOP Round Table: Decent Work in the Western Balkans, EP, Brussels - Register
22	SOLIDAR Italian Members Meeting, Roma
6	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, EP, Brussels - Register
20-21	SOLIDAR Round Table: Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Paris

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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