

SOIDAR Weekly Round Up 24-02-2012

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SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR GAINS MOMENTUM

In the run-up to the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development in June 2012, there is increasing recognition among international agencies, donors, governments and civil society organisations that social protection can play a pivotal role in preventing and reducing poverty, and promoting social and economic development. At the moment, only 20 % of the world's population has adequate social security coverage, and more than half lack any coverage at all.

SOLIDAR has been engaged in [promoting the Social Protection Floor](#), together with the European Working Group on Social Protection and Decent Work, for several years. At a conference at the EESC at the beginning of the month, we stressed that the EU must put a greater emphasis on the social dimension of sustainable development than envisaged in the current zero draft of the outcome document. In addition, we need to broaden the focus of the debate by shifting the emphasis from poverty eradication to the right to sustainable development.

Increasing social and wealth inequalities within and between countries requires urgent action, since they are hindering efforts to achieve sustainable development and distributional equity. Moreover, a just transition must guarantee decent work and high quality jobs for the workforce. Ratification and application of ILO Core Labour Standards is necessary, the ILO Social Protection Floor Initiative must be fully supported. Only in this way will we move towards our goal of fighting inequalities and achieving the MDGs.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

LAST CHANGE TO REGISTER FOR SILVER ROSE AWARDS

The 12th edition of the SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards will take place on Tuesday 6 March in the European Parliament, hosted by Véronique de Keyser. Don't miss the opportunity to [meet this year's extraordinary winners](#).

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT: COMMISSION CREATES NEW STAKEHOLDER EXPERT GROUP

Following its proposals for an [EU directive on public procurement and concessions](#) in December 2011, the European Commission intends to actively accompany further legislative and policy processes on the subject by issuing a [call for applications](#) to participate in a new stakeholder expert group on public procurement. The deadline to apply for membership of the group is 5 March 2012.

SOLIDAR supports the idea of setting up a stakeholder expert group helping to implement EU public procurement rules in a more effective way, particularly with regard to achieving progress in environmentally and socially sustainable development. During a meeting of the Informal Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement last week, members noted

however that the deadline was too short and that trade unions and other civil society organisations are not mentioned as "earmarked" interest group. The network will send a letter to the Commission raising these concerns. [Read more](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR ALL: ASBESTOS RULING GIVES HOPE TO THOUSANDS OF WORKERS

On 13 February 2012 in a historical ruling an Italian court sentenced two former top managers of multinational construction company Eternit to a 16-year jail term and fines worth millions of euros. Both former managers are accused of having allowed the use of asbestos in the company's production chain knowing it could potentially poison and even kill thousands of its workers.

According to the NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a coalition of international human rights, labour rights and environmental NGOs, the Eternit court ruling gives hope to asbestos victims in the shipbreaking industry and sends out a clear warning to companies that continue to fail to protect workers against the devastating effects of asbestos. [Read more](#).

ENLARGEMENT

MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK: ENSURING DECENT WORK AND QUALITY JOBS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Today, the Decent Work Balkan Network, of which SOLIDAR is a member, launched a new report [Making the System Work: Ensuring Decent Work and Quality Jobs in the Western Balkans](#) at the Round Table in the European Parliament.

The Network's findings confirm that countries are still far from being able to guarantee, protect and fulfill socio-economic rights in the Western Balkans. Therefore, it is crucial that, as Marije Cornelissen MEP (Greens/EFA) noted in her concluding remarks, the future Enlargement Strategy, especially the post-2013 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), is targeted towards strengthening social partners and social partnerships as well as supporting the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and the rule of law.

EDUCATION

ROUND TABLE: PROMOTING THE AGENDA FOR NEW SKILLS AND JOBS

On 20-21 March, SOLIDAR, together with project partners ABF, AIAS, DGB-Bildungswerk, FIC and with the support of members CEMEA and La Ligue de l'Enseignement, is organising a European Round Table on "Promoting the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs: Strengthening individual learning pathways by developing skills assessment tools for workers".

The first session will see the presentation of national practices in the validation of skills and competences acquired in a non-formal environment, as well as have a look at the competence assessment tool being developed for our [project](#). The second thematic session of the meeting will be dedicated to the topic of defining, measuring and facilitating intercultural learning in local communities and fostering integration. If you wish to take part in the seminar, please contact [Agata](#) before 28 February.

MEMBERS NEWS

Banana Link's Make Fruit Fair campaign invites you to take part in an [urgent action request](#) on behalf of our partners in Ecuador.

Solidarité Socialiste invites you to « La Journee Internationale de la Femme aux Couleurs de la Palestine » at the Halles de Schaerbeek on 10 March 2012 at 20. Facebook: La Palestine au Féminin - Gender Palestine

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

PARTNERS NEWS

Dutch cleaning workers have been on strike for the seventh consecutive week demanding respect and fair pay on the job. [Sign the petition now!](#)

WAC-MANN issued a [press release](#) that National Labor Court mandates Antiquities Authority to hire excavation workers as regular employees

Danish People's Aid have two vacancies: [Training Specialist for DAARTT In Afghanistan](#) and [Technical Adviser for DAARTT In Afghanistan - A Specialist in Construction Monitoring & Evaluation](#)

AGENDA

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| March Feb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 SOLIDAR/ENOP Round Table: Decent Work in the Western Balkans, EP, Brussels 22 SOLIDAR Italian Members Meeting, Roma 6 SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, EP, Brussels - Register 20 SOLIDAR Round Table: Young People and the Search for Decent Work, EP, Brussels - register 20-21 SOLIDAR Round Table: Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Paris |
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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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