

SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 02-03-2012

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On 20 February, twelve Member States called on EU leaders to come up with an urgent [plan of action to spur jobs and growth](#). Although the main message in the letter that was sent was deregulation and trade liberalisation, at least what was highlighted is that austerity measures will not be enough to restore growth. Finally, an alternative to the Franco-German only led austerity and budgetary control.

This message was brought home when we participated in the European Day of Action on Wednesday (29 February) with workers all over Europe clamoring that "enough is enough - alternatives exist for jobs and social justice". And this just before the European Summit taking place yesterday and today in Brussels.

SOLIDAR can only repeat a text that we wrote in the comment last year: "It is about financial, fiscal and social consolidation; it is about investing in growth, employment and social infrastructure and not about "kaputt sparen" (saving to death) or massive bank speculations and draconic austerity measures which are bringing down economies." Our message does not change - but when will all the EU leaders realise it?

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

PS: Also this week, Martin Schulz, [addressed](#) the Hellenic Parliament, both in his capacity as President of the European Parliament and as a German MEP.

SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2012

Only 3 days to go until the 12th edition of the SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards. Join us to meet [this year's extraordinary winners](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CTUWS GENERAL COORDINATOR SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

On 26 February, Kamal Abbas, General Coordinator of the Center for Trade Union & Workers Services (CTUWS), was sentenced in absentia to six months imprisonment by the Misdemeanor court of Helwan. This sentence was issued for interrupting the speech of the Acting President of the official Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF), Ismail Fahmy, at the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2011 and expressing his rejection that the ETUF, which belonged to the former regime of Hosni Mubarak, continued to represent the Egyptian workers.

SOLIDAR condemns this sentence against this friend of SOLIDAR who received the first SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award for International Solidarity in 2000. And fully support [CTUWS' reaction](#) that the court ruling is a violation of the national constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that both guarantee freedom of opinion and expression.

GLOBAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER OUT

Read [The Global Network](#)'s latest newsletter in [EN](#) | [ES](#).

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ASSESSMENT PAPER ON PROPOSAL FOR EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVE

This week, SOLIDAR together with other members of the informal Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement issued an [assessment paper](#) on the European Commission's (EC) proposal for the revision of the Public Procurement Directive. The Network aims to ensure that environmental and social considerations are taken into account when public authorities buy products and services in order to contribute to the realisation of sustainable development and the EU 2020 Strategy.

One of the most important aspects in the proposal is the criteria by which tenders are awarded. In the paper, the Network highlights that this should also include social and sustainable considerations and the introduction of cost-effectiveness approaches such as life-cycle costing, and that other further steps should be taken to discourage poor working conditions and low environmental standards. In the following weeks, SOLIDAR together with other Network members will get in touch with responsible MEPs to try to influence further legislative and policy processes.

EXPERT HEARING ON ESF IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

This Wednesday, the Committee for Employment and Social Affairs in the European Parliament organised an [expert hearing on the European Social Fund](#) (ESF) to which SOLIDAR member Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO) was invited to speak. The hearing is feeding into the drafting of the parliamentary report on the new ESF regulation. [AWO](#) (Germany) carries out ESF programmes but also manages them and steers the implementation of projects. These projects focus on staff development and further education in the work place, health promotion and prevention as well as social assistance to vulnerable people. [Read more](#).

MEMBERS NEWS

[ACPP](#), unions UGT and CCOO, and over 40 civil society organisations create the Platform for the Defense of the Welfare State and Public Services

Austerity measures in public services are not resolving Spain's problems, but are actually worsening the situation. The solution is public social policies, based on a progressive and adequate taxation system and strengthening democracy through negotiation, dialogue and social participation, as well as developing measures to promote economic recovery through employment generation.

Our organisations have signed a [manifesto](#) calling for another solution to the crisis and have created the Social Platform for the Defence of the Welfare State and Public Services in order to transfer the social model of society based on justice, democratic values and social and labour rights of all people.

Find out about **Solidaridad Internacional** [@tuvoz cuenta](#) defending the rights of women's economic rights

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

PARTNERS NEWS

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

March Feb

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

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

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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