

## Veerle Solia

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**Aan:** Veerle Solia  
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Although yesterday's informal EU Summit did not make any major headway in providing Europe with a way out of the crisis, it represents a turning point after the two-year German-led one-sided austerity policy. France's new Socialist President, François Hollande, brought to the table a refreshing call for growth policies at a time of record eurozone unemployment.

Measures that he was calling for, such as using EU budget funds and increased capital for the European Investment Bank to finance growth projects, together with the use of Eurobonds and a solid European financial transaction tax, could really help stabilize the EU and generate growth and new jobs. Exactly what is needed now as a response to the crisis!

The European project is built on solidarity, and we are glad to finally hear the increasing voices calling for an alternative way out of the crisis. And this solidarity was shown not least by Martin Schulz, President of European Parliament, when he returned to Greece last week, stressing that European solidarity demands that we stand by each other. We witness that Progressives make the difference and now there is a chance for a change which can reestablish trust and confidence to citizens!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### ESF FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Last week, SOLIDAR put forward [recommendations](#) for the European Parliament's draft report on the future European Social Fund (ESF) regulation, so that it better responds to the needs of vulnerable people and to achieve the Europe 2020 Strategy targets on poverty reduction and employment. The recommendations focus on the scope and beneficiaries of ESF programmes as well as on governance, conditionalities and project evaluation.

Further, 14 social NGOs - including SOLIDAR - launched the campaign [EU Money for Poverty Reduction NOW!](#) urging Member States to respect their commitments to reduce poverty by ensuring that the necessary EU Funds are allocated for social inclusion and fighting poverty. The campaign calls to secure the allocation of at least 25% of the Cohesion Policy budget to the European Social Fund (ESF) and the earmarking of at least 20% of the ESF to social inclusion and poverty reduction. You can support the campaign by signing the [Avaaz petition](#).

### EC COMMUNICATION ON STATE AID MODERNISATION

On 8 May, the European Commission adopted a communication on [EU State Aid Modernisation](#) that aims at state aid controls targeting more effectively sustainable growth-enhancing policies while encouraging budgetary consolidation, limiting distortions of competition and combating protectionism. After having just completed a year of negotiations for Commissioner Almunia's state aid package of services of general interest, for social service providers - like many SOLIDAR members - this new process will determine the broader framework within which they fall. [Read more...](#)

### NEWS FROM PESSIS PROJECT

Read the [latest news](#) from the PESSIS (Promoting employers' social services organisations in social dialogue) project in which SOLIDAR is involved.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### SOLIDAR NETWORK IN HAITI: BETTER WORK FOR A DECENT RECONSTRUCTION

Lack of access to skills training and education are key factors that keep many potentially productive people from participating effectively in the labour market. Investing in people is an investment for a country's economic performance, and decent work and the fundamental rights of workers must be a cornerstone, both of reconstruction and development.

This is the main idea behind the [SOLIDAR-funded project](#) "Better Work for a Decent Reconstruction", successfully closed on 14 May 2012, implemented by three Italian trade union cooperation institutes, Iscos (Cisl), Progetto Sviluppo (Cgil) and Progetto Sud (Uil), two Italian NGOs, Arcs and Auser, together with the two main trade unions of the island, Cth in Haiti and Casc in Dominican Republic.

[Read more...](#)

## EDUCATION

### THEMATIC LIAISON FORUM ON JOBS AND SKILLS

SOLIDAR was invited by the European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion to present its project "[Promoting the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs: Strengthening individual learning pathways by developing skills assessment tools for workers](#)" on 21 May to social partners at the quarterly-organised Thematic Liaison Forum. [Read more...](#)

### SOLIDAR AT EUCIS-LLL ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY

On 14 May, SOLIDAR took part in the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) Annual Conference "Social Innovation for Active Inclusion: Lifelong learning contribution for a better tomorrow" held in the University of Leuven. Pierre Mairesse, Director of DG Education and Culture, underlined the commitment of civil society organisations and educational providers to ensuring that inclusive growth is one of the main priorities in the European agenda. [Read more...](#)

## MIGRATION

### EXHIBITION: MIGRATION TO EUROPE

The exhibition produced by network member, the Czech Council on Foreign Affairs, within SOLIDAR's [project on migration and development](#) is [now showing](#) at the Mining Museum in The Czech Republic from 18 April to 17 June 2012.

## NETWORK NEWS

**Solidarité Socialiste** is supporting a [petition](#) launched by civil society in Guinea-Bissau addressed to the Security Council of the United Nations to stop military putsches in the country.

**War on Want** is [celebrating](#) after years of campaigning by activists across the UK, yesterday the government finally promised to act to curb supermarket bullying by introducing a supermarket watchdog.

**La Ligue de l'Enseignement** issued a [press release](#) on "Nouveau gouvernement : des avancées manifestes".

On 5 June **La Ligue de l'Enseignement du Calvados** is holding a [debate](#) around the film : « Ecoles en Haiti ».

**Solidar Suisse** is **looking for** a Administration & Finance Coordinator in Pakistan.

Read **Arci's** **latest news**.

**Pour la Solidarité** has issued a **publication** on "Les Emplois Verts".

## PARTNERS NEWS

**CONCORD** has launched a new **AidWatch Facebook application**: make comical photos of any of our lovely 27 leaders, and add your message on aid commitments ahead of the June EU Summit.

**Confrontations Europe** has issued a **text** on "Proposal for a European legislative instrument on public procurement: Reciprocity and Protectionism".

**IFOAM EU** office is **looking** for a communication expert.

## AGENDA

June May

- 22-24 Global Network Global Conference, Rio
- 7 SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels - **register**
- 26-27 Mobilising for Social Justice in North Africa, 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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