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EDITORIAL

Next week the SOLIDAR network will gather at its Annual General Assembly and elect a new board. As a progressive civil society organisation, we currently represent 56 member organisations in 25 countries which brings together more than 10 million members. We believe that we have an important role to play, not only in following EU policy making in our different areas of work, but to contribute through our work and our alliances to setting another agenda which shows a way out of the crisis.

The European Social Model - appreciated at the beginning of the crisis - is deteriorating, and inequality and social exclusion are growing. There is a high risk that a whole generation of young people, who are highly qualified and trained, but unable to access the labour market will be scarred. Trade unions have a central role in defending workers in the work place and through social dialogue, an essential part of our European Social Model. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

GLOBAL NETWORK COMMITMENT: ILO CONVENTION ON DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

At its Global Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro between 22-24 May 2012, the Global Network [committed](#) to support the "12 by 12" Campaign led by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and which aims at getting 12 governments to ratify the ILO Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention (ILO C189) by the end of 2012, and to support and coordinate actions to assist and accompany the ILO C189's ratification and implementation process.

In the short term, the Global Network committed to join the World Day of Domestic Workers' Rights which will take place on 16 June and called on all its partners in Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Arab Countries to highlight, with every means possible, the ILO C189's Anniversary on 16 June.

Over the last years, the Global Network has worked together with domestic workers organisations to demand the adoption of an international standard to bring recognition and dignity to millions of workers around the world who are unrecognised and undervalued. The [Global Network Conference statement](#) reinforces this commitment and determination to ensure that the ILO Convention is ratified and implemented, bringing a real change in people's lives.

Read the [Global Network case studies](#) on domestic workers rights.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REFRAMING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: YOUNG PEOPLE, MIGRANTS AND LOW-WAGE WORKERS

On Wednesday (30 May), SOLIDAR and [FEPS](#) co-organised the final conference of the project

"**Making Industrial Relations work for Decent Work**" where a [recommendations booklet](#) was launched. Participants agreed that to improve the situation there is the need for an EU licensing system for recruitment agencies and gangmasters which sets clear labour standards (on working hours, social security contributions..) and an EU-level platform of labour inspections to foster cooperation, information exchange and sharing best practices. [Read more...](#)

EU MONEY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION NOW!

14 social NGOs - including SOLIDAR - have 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](#).

SOCIALSERVICEEUROPE.EU LAUNCHED

Social Services Europe, a newly founded organisation gathering together seven Europe-wide networks of not-for-profit providers of social and health care services - including SOLIDAR, yesterday launched their [website](#). People interested in knowing more about social services in Europe can now easily access publications covering a wide range of topics such as public procurement, social innovation and employment in the health sector. A calendar of events helps to keep track of the different meetings that are held and a news section keeps people up-to-date on Social Services Europe's latest news.

MIGRATION

SOLIDAR AND 64 OTHER NGOS SIGN "FAMILY LIFE STATEMENT"

At the EU Public Hearing on family reunification of migrants living in the EU, taking place yesterday and today at the European Economic and Social Committee, SOLIDAR and 64 other NGOs signed the "Family Life Statement". The statement calls on EU Member States and the European Commission to "remove practical obstacles to family reunification" including high processing fees and to make "equality and proportionality the guiding principles of any material or housing conditions" amongst other priorities. The statement will be available on the SOLIDAR website shortly.

NETWORK NEWS

Iscos, together with a number of its regional branches and the site cineresie.info, is sending out a monthly newsletter on work in China. Read the newsletter [in Italian](#) or get a taste [in English](#).

War on Want has released a [new briefing](#) "Restricted Rights: Migrant Workers in Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia", which highlights the exploitation of female migrant workers in Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia.

SOLIDAR President and MEP, **Josef Weidenholzer**, is hosting a [conference](#) on "post-ACTA: How to protect our digital freedom" on 7 June from 14:00-16:00 in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Read **Solidarité Socialiste's** [news](#)

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

PARTNERS NEWS

The [final conference](#) of the **PESSIS project** "Promoting employers' social services organisations in social dialogue" will take place on 22 June 2012 from 9.00 - 15.30 at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.

The **Center for Trade Union & Workers' Services (CTUWS)** and the **Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC)** invite you to a [press conference](#).

The **21st Annual Volonteurope Conference** will take place on 18-20 October 2012 in Florence.
Read the [draft programme](#) and [register](#).

As follow-up of their campaign "More than a roof over our heads", the **PES Group in the CoR** has published a book on social housing. [Order your free copy](#).

Euroblind asks What's your country's position on a "books for blind people" treaty? Find out with the [WIPO treaty map](#).

AGENDA

May
June

22-24 Global Network Global Conference, Rio

7 SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels

14-15 Regional Workshop: "Joint efforts for the achievement of Decent Work in the Western Balkans", Skopje, FYR of Macedonia

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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