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HOW TO END THE VICIOUS CIRCLE?

Yesterday, Spain managed to prevent a shortfall in financing its debt by a state loan at a rate of 6%. The same evening, a credit rating agency downgraded Spain by 3 degrees to BBB. Whereas Germany gets credit at a 0% rate, Spain has to pay 6%, and this at a time when its citizen are increasingly afraid of losing their savings, jobs and future. Everyday more than 40 families are expelled from their homes, and this is only in Madrid. This is an illustration of the social consequences of a two-speed Europe, which cannot be the objective.

Solidarity is not a useless word, and although the European Safety Mechanism offers an important level of protection for Member States, it is not enough. The alternative lies in making the right political choices for sustainable, smart and inclusive growth and for quality employment, for rehabilitating the Europe 2020 Strategy. This is also the meaning of the ETUC's call for a **Social Compact** and of the Social Platform call for a New Social Pact.

On 5 June 1947, President Roosevelt presented the outline of a Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe. Luckily Europe does not yet to be reconstructed, but its economy and social system need to be focused on and not left to ruin. German Social Democrats and Greens are doing right by raising pressure on the German government and insisting on policies to give impetus to growth and economic developments.

We see already a move towards acknowledging the need for more investment and growth, but the choices of the means will be decisive: more working poor and social exclusion, the liberalisation of labour markets and the worsening of working and living conditions are not the alternatives to maintaining the cohesion of our societies and democracies.

This is the fundamental social dimension behind those macro-economic choices!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

SOLIDAR's 2012 Annual General Assembly which took place yesterday (7 June) in the European Parliament focused strongly on the social consequences of the crisis and the role of civil society in providing alternative responses. SOLIDAR President stated: "We need a SOLIDAR which represents people from all over Europe, bringing together civil society and labour movement organisations, people who believe in democracy and who have a message for how to get out of the crisis".

Lots of change took place this year, with a new Board elected to guide the SOLIDAR network's work over the next 3 years. See a full **list of the new Board**. The report on the network's activities and the political choices presented by the Secretary General, Conny Reuter, was endorsed and fully supported. 4 new important members joined the network: **AOF Norway**, **GFTU**, **WEA UK** and **BFI - Institute for Vocational advancement Upper Austria**.

This means that SOLIDAR now brings together 59 member organisations in 25 countries (**see list of**

members). With this enlarged constituency and around our three pillars of work (social, international, education), we are a relevant and leading force for change in Europe and, together with our partners of the Global Network, ready to cooperate with progressive political forces, trade unions and other civil society organisations in Europe and globally.



SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER STATES STOP COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR MONTI II

Last week, several Member States stopped legislative work on the Monti II Regulation clarifying the exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of cross-border service provision. For the first time since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, Member States used the 'yellow card procedure' whereby if one third raises an objection on the basis of a violation of the principle of subsidiarity, the proposal must be reviewed.

Already in March, the European Commission received criticism for its legislative package on posting, comprising an Enforcement Directive for the posting of workers as well as the Monti II Regulation. The two proposals also fell short of **SOLIDAR's expectations**. The proposal for the Monti II Regulation undermines the right to strike as guaranteed in art 28 of the European Charter by giving equal importance to the right to strike and economic freedoms. [Read more...](#)

CONFERENCE: PROMOTING EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SERVICES IN SOCIAL DIALOGUE

The **final conference** of the PESSIS project "Promoting employers' social services organisations in social dialogue" - in which SOLIDAR is involved - will take place on 22 June 2012 from 9.00 - 15.30 at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. The Conference will present the European Summary Report on social dialogue and collective bargaining in the social services sector, combining the 11 national reports, next to some political recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ITUC SURVEY OF VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS: VULNERABILITY OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

In its **Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights**, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) highlights that among the most vulnerable workers there are "the world's 100 million or so domestic workers, often young, women migrants with little knowledge of their rights and no means of enforcing them, suffering oppressive, even violent conditions".

The ITUC is currently campaigning, with its **"12 by 12" campaign** to get at least 12 countries to ratify the ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers by the end of 2012. SOLIDAR and the Global Network support the 12 by 12 campaign and calls on all its members and partners to highlight the international domestic workers day that will be celebrated internationally on 16 June. Read the

Global Network Statement on Domestic Workers (in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)).

NETWORK NEWS

Solidaridad Internacional has issued a new [publication](#) "Un acercamiento a la realidad asociativa en argelia" mapping civil society in Algeria.

Solidarité Laïque is organising a mobilization for their Global Campaign for Education. [press release](#) where we invite people to join our [Facebook Educationpour tous](#).

Solidarité Laïque is also organising an [event](#) "Regards croisés pour les droits de l'enfant" on 29 June in Paris.

War on Want is launching a new [campaign](#) to make Adidas make the most basic commitments like ensuring all the workers who make their clothes are paid a living wage.

Léo Lagrange has [cinema tickets](#) for a new film "Une seconde femme"

Solidar Suisse has made it! More than 110,000 people have signed the petition [Droit sans frontières](#) demanding that multinational companies based in Switzerland are legally responsible for the actions of their filial organisations.

Solidaridad Internacional still has some places left for their ["Vacaciones Solidarias"](#).

Read **Samaritan International's** [news](#)

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

PARTNERS NEWS

CTUWS has launched a [publication](#) "En-chained Unions Report on Violations of Right to Freedom of Association"

The **Greens/EFA in the European Parliament** are organising a conference "Kickstart social Europe - Alternatives to austerity" on 27 June 2012. [Register online](#).

FEANTSA is kicking off a new [campaign](#) saying stop to criminalization of poverty on 8 June 2012, 11.00 AM, Committee of the Regions, Brussels

AGENDA

- June
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|-------|---|
| 7 | SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels |
| 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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