

**Veerle Solia**

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## **SOLIDAR SUPPORTS EP's FIRM STAND ON PROPOSED SCHENGEN REFORM**

While concerns are rising about the consequences of a democratic vote in Greece and the fear of the reaction to the so-called increase in the markets, there is another severe attack on democracy and the Community method currently taking place in Europe.

As a counter reaction to the decision by Home Affairs Ministers of Schengen countries on 12 June to reserve the right to reintroduce border controls in the case of "excessive immigration" without prior consultation, the European Parliament decided this week to block negotiations on five draft laws in protest of plans to exclude the Parliament from participating in the ongoing discussions on the Schengen agreement. SOLIDAR firmly defends the freedom of mobility as a fundamental right and cornerstone of the Schengen Agreement. This major EU achievement should not be undermined, but safeguarded.

It seems again that the decision was taken to satisfy requests from the populist and far right political forces in Member States that play on the fear of citizens. Not only do these decisions undermine the Community principle, but also pave the way to mainstreaming populism in societal debates. What is needed in times of crisis is the preservation of the "acquis" and not undermining it. We just need to look at our European history to understand that, like in the past century, risks to democracy come from inside and not outside, through a smooth erosion of democratic principles and achievements. This is not just about this one issue. [Read more...](#)

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## **SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **PARLIAMENT VOTES ON TWO-PACK TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE**

This week, the European Parliament voted on two key legislative proposals aimed at further strengthening economic governance in the Eurozone. The so-called 'two pack' builds on the 'six-pack' and wants to further centralise budgetary control in the Eurozone. Many MEPs consider the pack a counter-balance to austerity-focused fiscal consolidation with measures aimed at stimulating economic recovery in crisis countries.

SOLIDAR calls for a social pillar in economic governance - which is an integrated approach that supports investment in the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, notably regarding the social inclusion and employment targets, as well as transparency and democratic control. 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. [Read more...](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **16 JUNE 2012: TOGETHER FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS RIGHTS**

To celebrate one year since the adoption of the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, on 16 June, the World Day of Domestic Workers Rights Mobilisation will take place. SOLIDAR and its Global Network partners call on EU Member States to highlight this anniversary with a clear commitment to: ratify and implement ILO C189 and recognise domestic work in law and practice by giving equal rights to all (migrant) domestic workers amongst others ([read full list of asks](#)).

At the Global Network Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro between 22 and 24 May 2012, SOLIDAR and 70 delegates from more than 35 countries around the world committed to support the "12 by 12" Campaign which is led by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and to support and coordinate actions to assist and accompany the ILO C189 ratification process and its implementation. Read the Global Network Statement in [English](#) | [Spanish](#). Find out more on the [International Domestic Workers](#) website.

## EDUCATION

### SOLIDAR CONGRATULATES NETWORK MEMBER ABF ON 100th BIRTHDAY



SOLIDAR participated in the 100th anniversary of network member [ABF](#) (Sweden), joining together with members and partners of the [Global Network](#). ABF's history highlights the values of popular education promoting active inclusion and social cohesion for building progressive societies. At the anniversary week, an impressive series of workshops were organised around workers' and popular education for making change ([read ABF's welcome message](#)).

Examples from [LEF](#) (Pakistan), [LRS](#) (South Africa) and [LEARN](#) (The Philippines) highlighted the need to continue popular education for workers worldwide. EU workshops underlined that European policy developments in the field of education and the concept of skills and competences have become increasingly important, but that education cannot be reduced to being only a tool for the labour market. [Read more...](#)

## ENLARGEMENT

### WORKSHOP: ADVOCACY FOR DECENT WORK IN WESTERN BALKANS

50 civil society organisations and trade unions met in Skopje (Macedonia) this week to discuss joint advocacy strategies to promote decent work and quality jobs in the Western Balkans. At the meeting it became apparent that there are large challenges ahead in the field of decent work: high unemployment, informal unemployment, precarious working conditions and a rising marginalisation of vulnerable groups.

The way to respond to these issues is by respecting the EU Social Acquis and ILO Conventions and not by advertising to investors that the diminished 'rule of law' in the region holds a comparative advantage. There is a need to change the strategy and to start thinking differently across structures in order to promote labour issues and to make an impact. Trade unions must assume a more active role, whilst civil society has to be open to work in networks and alliances to create social movements and not simply ad-hoc initiatives.

## NETWORK NEWS

### Banana Link's Make Fruit Fair petition to European Parliament

Next Wednesday, Latin American trade union leader and SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awardee 2012, Iris Munguia, and Caribbean farmer representative, Renwick Rose, will present [thousands of signatures to the European Commission](#) calling for the regulation of supermarket buyer power.

Iris and Renwick represent tens of thousands of small producers and workers who suffer the negative impacts of the lack of control over how supermarkets are able to treat the suppliers of bananas, pineapples and many other products sold daily on our supermarket shelves.

The signatures will be presented on Wednesday 20 June at 10.30am at the Roundpoint Schuman, Brussels. Renwick and Iris will also be addressing the Fair Play: Retailers and the Food Supply Chain Informal MEP Working Group later that day.

**ACPP** are organising **courses in cooperation in the field** - a good opportunity to learn what NGOs do in the field.

**LegaCoopBund** issued a **media release** on "Assemblea annuale Legacoopbund: uscire dalla crisi cooperando".

Read **AWO's** latest 'Ansicht' **magazine** with an article on SOLIDAR.

Read **ARCI's** **news**.

## PARTNERS NEWS

See what the **SOCIAL PLATFORM** has been up to over the last year in its **2011 Annual Report**.

**European Policy Center** are holding an **event** on "Creating second career labour markets - Towards more employment opportunities for older workers" on Wednesday 20 June 2012, 16.00-18.00.

Read **ETUC's** **media release** on "Rio+20: Spring Alliance Of Unions And Civil Society Organisations Calls For Concrete Actions".

**Light for the World** is looking for a **EU Advocacy/Liaison Officer** based in Brussels.

## AGENDA

- June
- 7 SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels
  - 26-27 Mobilising for Social Justice in North Africa, Brussels - [register](#)

*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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