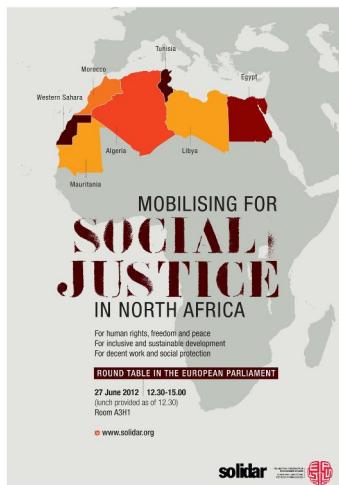


Veerle Solia

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Verzonden: vrijdag 22 juni 2012 12:12
Aan: Veerle Solia
Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 22-06-2012



EDITORIAL: FROM AN ARAB SPRING TO AN ARAB AUTUMN?



Last year, progressives all over the world welcomed the changes in the Middle East and North Africa which took place during the Arab Spring. The turmoil that followed the collapse of old regimes however brought instability. One year later, the process has become more complicated; as the elections in Egypt and Tunisia, as well as the brutal repression in Syria which only last night killed 170 people have shown, the Arab Spring's promises for democratic transition have not yet become reality.

For SOLIDAR, independent and democratic 'actors for change' have a fundamental role to play in these democratic transition processes. They work for the development of a democratic pluralistic society and strive to bring the social dimension into the development equation.

Next week, on 26 and 27 June, SOLIDAR has invited 20 civil society organisations and trade unions from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Palestine to Brussels to identify together the challenges that lie ahead in the region and to define - with our members active in the region - cooperation programmes that counteract the forces that promote inequalities and old power structures, which stand against social justice, human rights and democracy. [Read more...](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EU LEGISLATION ON STRUCTURAL FUNDS ENDANGERS PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE

This week, SOLIDAR [raised concerns](#) about the suggestions for the implementation of the partnership principle in the current draft report (2011/0276 COD) on the common provisions for the EU Structural Funds, which is about to be negotiated in the European Parliament. The current draft report endangers a genuine partnership that would set all relevant and competent stakeholders on an equal footing during the next programming period (2014-2020). In addition to this, several formulations could contribute to legal uncertainty, leaving space for various interpretations. [Read more...](#)

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL: SUPPORT THE 20% ALLOCATION OF ESF FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Yesterday, 18 social NGOs, amongst which SOLIDAR, sent a [joint letter](#) to Prime Ministers ahead of their General Affairs Council meeting on 26 June, urging them to back the European Commission's proposal on the Cohesion policy budget and on the European Social Fund (ESF) for social inclusion and fighting poverty. [Read more...](#)

OMBUDSMAN PUBLISHES ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EU OFFICIALS

Fifty per cent or more of our laws come from Brussels and it is vital that these policies work in the

interests of people and environment - not big business. Yet, the EU has a close relationship with corporate interests and many EU officials go through the 'revolving door' meaning that they leave their EU job and soon start working for industry or lobby firms, often in the same policy area. When this happens, corporate groups gain inside-knowledge, vital contacts, and above all, powerful influence (read more: [Block the revolving door campaign](#)). [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

THE HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

This week, Magdalena Sepúlveda, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights visited SOLIDAR for a meeting with Brussels based civil society organisations working on Social Protection in Development Cooperation. SOLIDAR and its partners in the Global Network support the ILO-led Social Protection Floor initiative and believe that social protection is a key element of a renewed international cooperation agenda which aims to promote social justice and inclusive development. [Read more...](#)

DECENT WORK DECENT LIFE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

On Tuesday (19 June), SOLIDAR was invited to speak at a European Roundtable on decent work, organised by the Austrian, Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs and trade unions [Südwind](#), [ÖGB](#), [AUR-ANSRU](#), [CartelALFA](#), [BILSP](#) and [CL Podkrepia](#). During the event, over 6000 signatures for the Call for Action for Decent Work Decent Life were handed over to MEPs Ivailo Kalfin and Ulrike Lunacek, who both expressed their support to NGOs and trade unions involved in the fight for decent work. [Read more...](#)

ENLARGEMENT

THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS - CITIZENS ARE ASKING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Decent Work Balkan Network (DWBN) representatives [AGENDA Institute](#) (Albania), [Center for Democracy Foundation](#) (Serbia) and [Progress Institute for Social-Democracy](#) (Macedonia), were invited to discuss the (neglected) aspects of the social dimension of the Enlargement process at a [hearing](#) organised this week in the context of Maria Eleni Koppa MEP (S&D) draft report "Enlargement: policies, criteria and the EU's strategic interests".

Representatives from the region stressed that to avoid mistakes from past enlargements, the overall approach towards the region should be more integrated and good progress should be rewarded according to the more-for-more principle. In these difficult times of crisis, when the social agenda easily falls victim to austerity measures, the EU needs to keep combating poverty and social exclusion through a more sectoral focus and to push for a more inclusive approach to policy-making on all levels. [Read more...](#)

EDUCATION

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR NON-PROFESSIONAL YOUTH WORK

On 20 June, SOLIDAR member [CEMEA](#) together with various partners, presented the idea of establishing a [European platform for non-professional youth work](#) to European stakeholders, including DG Education and Culture and Member of the European Parliament, Anna Záborská (EPP). The aim behind this initiative is to increase recognition of the expertise and added-value of non-professional youth work in the non-formal education area in Europe, that would eventually lead to the creation of a European directive on the matter. [Read more...](#)

NETWORK NEWS

New **updates for members** are available on the SOLIDAR members area: [Enlargement/Western Balkans](#) and [Education and Lifelong Learning](#).

On Wednesday (20 June) Latin American trade union leader and Silver Rose Awardee 2012, Iris Munguia, and Caribbean farmer representative, Renwick Rose, presented 14,404 signatures to the

European Commission in Brussels endorsing the [Make Fruit Fair campaign](#) to regulate supermarket buyer power.

Read **AEDH**'s [contribution](#) to Eusur "When border control takes precedence over migrants' lives".

AEDH are also [looking for](#) a coordinator and an administration, accounting and fundraising officer.

Read about **La Liga Espanola**'s [programme on development education](#) and see some [pictures](#).

Read **ARCI**'s [news](#).

PARTNERS NEWS

European Civic Forum are looking for a [European project officer](#) based in Paris.

Support **CONCORD**'s [AidWatch Facebook application](#).

Read **EUCIS-LLL** new [publication](#) on National Stakeholders' Forums.

EPSU starts first European Citizens Initiative on water as a Human Right

Yesterday, the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) gave the starting signal for the paper collection of signatures for the first European Citizens Initiative on water. In many European cities, trade unionists, environmentalists and citizens will take photos and collect signatures to reclaim water as a common good and not a commodity. The Citizens Committee aims to collect over a million signatures by May 2013. Find out more: www.right2water.eu.

Read **WAC-MAAN**'s [article](#) on "Eyewitness: Syria is imploding"

AGENDA

June

26-27 Mobilising for Social Justice in North Africa, Brussels

SOLIDAR is a European network of 59 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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