

## Veerle Solia

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**Aan:** Veerle Solia  
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### EDITORIAL: ANOTHER AGENDA IS POSSIBLE

SOLIDAR, like other civil society networks in Europe and worldwide, are contributing to policy change. In times of crisis and in the face of the challenges stemming from fiscal and financial orthodoxy, we have been tirelessly calling for another strategy and have found good arguments in the devastating social consequences of austerity policies to show that poverty is increasing, social justice is lacking and we are getting further away from our objectives of equality and social cohesion in the EU and the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy's social objectives.

At the international level, the ILO, World Bank, UN agencies and NGOs have started to work together to enhance interagency coordination and cooperation on social protection issues and support those countries in the global South who understand that introducing social protection schemes is not only a fundamental pillar of the Decent Work Agenda, but necessary for economic growth and a human right. [Read more...](#)

### SOCIAL AFFAIRS

#### PARLIAMENT VOTE ON ESF PROVIDES STRONG BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION WITH COUNCIL

Yesterday, the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs voted on two important reports: one amends the proposal for a European Social Fund (ESF) Regulation and another amends the proposal for the Common Provisions Regulation for all EU Structural Funds. Both votes provide important improvements on the sound proposal by the European Commission and give a strong basis for following negotiations with the European Council to reach a first reading agreement. [Read more...](#)

#### SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE KEY DRIVERS OF SOCIAL INNOVATION!

This week, Social Services Europe - of which SOLIDAR is co-founder - issued a [briefing paper](#) presenting social innovation from the perspective of social service providers. The paper - to which SOLIDAR actively contributed - highlights the key role played by social, health and educational service providers in identifying unmet or insufficiently met needs in society, developing innovative approaches, designing and evaluating policies as well as in scaling up innovative practices in order to improve people's quality of life and employment and contribute to deliver on the Europe 2020 Strategy. [Read more...](#)

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

#### EU SUMMIT FAILS TO MAKE STRONG COMMITMENT ON DEVELOPMENT AID

At the EU Summit on 28-29 June, governments failed to commit to strong funding for development aid in the next EU budget or Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020. A few days before the Summit, CONCORD's 2012 AidWatch Report, '[Aid We Can: more investment in global development](#)' highlighted that aid budget cuts are becoming a major trend, with ?500 million slashed

from total EU aid spending in 2011. In addition, big countries such as Germany and France missed their aid targets in 2011. [Read more...](#)

## NEW GLOBAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER OUT

The worldwide alliance of NGOs and trade unions brought together by concerns and interests in globalisation, the Global Network - coordinated by SOLIDAR - has launched a [new edition of their newsletter](#). Find out the latest news from around the globe on the migrant domestic workers campaign amongst others.

## HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES

### EU: CALL ON RUSSIA TO STOP NEW ANTI-NGO LAW

SOLIDAR supports the [call from Russian NGOs](#) to EU governments to urge Russia not to adopt a new anti-NGO bill and repeal the recent anti-demonstration legislation. In a month's time, a new bill on NGOs is being proposed in the Russian Parliament labelling NGOs as "foreign agents", this would be another law significantly curtailing fundamental freedoms following the "anti-demonstration" law adopted in early June. The new anti-NGO bill stipulates that any NGO be termed a "foreign agent" if it ever received funding from abroad, and it significantly increases the administrative burden for such an NGO.

## EDUCATION

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SUPPORTS STRENGTHENING DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND GLOBAL ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

SOLIDAR welcomes the European Parliament's adoption of the written declaration on development education and active global citizenship co-tabled by MEPs Filip Kaczmarek, Maria Badia I Cutchet, Michael Gahler, Catherine Grèze, and Fiona Hall. The [declaration](#) followed by an advocacy campaign led by CONCORD - of which SOLIDAR is a member - and DEEEP calling on the European Commission, Council and Member States to develop a new frame for political debate on the role of European citizens within development, as well as to strengthen development education policies both at national and European level. [Read more...](#)

### EVENT REPORT: AN AGENDA FOR NEW SKILLS AND JOBS

77 million European aged 25-64 (close to 30%) still have at most lower secondary education and those with low qualifications are much less likely to participate in up-skilling and lifelong learning. This highlights the urgent need for providing all people - especially those 'far' from education - with educational opportunities that will support their development on the one hand, and on the other, will recognise the skills, knowledge and qualifications that they have acquired in non-formal and informal learning environments. This was the main message that came out of the Round Table ([read event report](#)). [Read more...](#)

## NETWORK NEWS

Read AEDH's [media release](#) on the European Parliament definitely rejects the ACTA Treaty! A major step that AEDH welcomes!

Check out **Ado Sah Rom**'s great [website](#).

Read **IFWEA**'s latest [e-bulletin](#).

Read **Banana Link**'s latest [news](#).

## PARTNERS NEWS

Read **EUCIS-LLL**'s latest [news](#).

Ahead of the European Council, the European Parliament's **S&D Group** and the **PES Group in the Committee of the Regions** adopted a **10-point Socialist agenda** on the new legislative framework for cohesion policy 2014-2020.

**Terre des Hommes International Federation** is now recruiting a Communications intern. If interested, send a CV and short cover letter to **Laura Mariotti** by 6 July.

*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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