Workers’ Tour
ROUND TABLE | 5 OCTOBER 2011 | 12:00-14:30* (lunch provided)

European Parliament | Altiero Spinelli | Room A1E3

*After the Round Table there will be photo opportunity spot for MEPs willing to support the ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention

DOMESTIC WORKERS:
FROM MODERN-DAY SLAVERY TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Interpretation: English | Spanish | Italian (passive)
Chair: Mr. Conny Reuter (Secretary General of SOLIDAR)

About the activity

To mark the 4th World day for Decent Work, which will be celebrated worldwide on October 7th, SOLIDAR and the Foundation for Progressive Studies (FEPS) will organise a two days domestic workers’ tour* to call on Members of the European Parliament and Government Representatives to support and promote the ratification and the implementation of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (C 189).

The landmark Convention, setting standards for the treatment of domestic workers, was adopted on June 17th at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva. If ratified and implemented, it will improve the working and living conditions of domestic workers – estimated between 53 million and 100 million – in Europe and worldwide (the vast majority of whom are women).

In May 2011, the European Parliament adopted its Resolution on the proposed ILO convention expressing its support for its adoption at the ILO ILC. It is now time to support the ratification process by encouraging governments to study the possibility of ratifying.

The Round Table “Domestic Workers: From Modern Slavery to Equal Rights”, will bring together domestic workers union leaders from Peru and South Africa with European CSOs representative, Member of the European Parliament and experts on the topic to discuss about the importance of the convention and the need for Europe to promote its ratification and implementation.

*The Workers’ Tour will take place between Wednesday 5 and Friday 7 October. On Wednesday 5th, activities will take place at the European Parliament: a Round table (between 12:00 and 14:30) and a photo opportunity for MEPs willing to express their support to the ratification of the ILO C189. On October 6th-7th workers’ delegates will meet Governments’ representatives to ask their commitment to study very carefully the possibility of ratifying the Convention.
Program

12:00 Opening
- Mr. Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR
- Dr. Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) TBC
- Jean Lambert MEP (Green/EFA) TBC

12:15 Experts and workers leaders views on the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189)
- Ms. Marieke Koning, Equality Officer, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Ms. Leddy Mozombite, General Secretary of SINTTRAHOL (Sindicato de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores del Hogar de la Región Lima/Domestic Workers Union of the Lima Region)
- Ms. Myrtle Witbooi, Chair of the International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) and General Secretary of SADSAWU (South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union)

12:50 Feedback by Members of the European Parliament
- Britta Thomsen MEP (S&D)
- Jean Lambert MEP (Green/EFA)

13:00 Migrant Domestic Workers Rights in Europe – Why EU Governments should support the ratification of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189)
- Ms. Cinzia Sechi, ETUC Legal Advisor
- Ms. Fe Jusay, Respect Network Coordinator (The Netherlands)
- Ms. Irma Tobias, President of Kampi (Italian association of Filipinos workers in Italy)
- Ms. Nivedita Prasad, Project Coordinator, Ban Ying Counseling and Coordination Center against trafficking in Persons

13:35 Feedback by Members of the European Parliament
- Gabriele Zimmer MEP (GUE/NGL)
- Emilie Türünen MEP (Greens/EFA)

13:45 Questions and Answers

14:15 Conclusions

14:30 Open space and Photo opportunity:
MEPs can symbolically sign the convention for migrant domestic workers.
To book your time for a group’s picture, contact Abigail.Goundry@solidar.org

With the financial support of EuropeAID, ‘Decent Work, Migration and Development’ Project: