

Together for Social Europe Conference: Draft Programme

1. Description

Date:	28-29 April 2009
Venue:	European Parliament (29 April)
Duration:	2 days
No. Participants:	50
Countries involved:	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom
Partners invited:	SOLIDAR members, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), PES Group in the European Parliament, MEPs, Social Platform and members, EUCIS-LLL and members, ETUC, EPSU, ETUI, ITUC, representatives of Committee of Regions (CoR), representatives of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
Speakers:	Social workers working on a daily basis and at local level with socially and economically disadvantaged or vulnerable people, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of European Platforms of social NGOs, representatives of FEPS
Objectives:	<p>At national level and with SOLIDAR members: To develop a better understanding of EU social policies relevant to social services; active citizenship; social inclusion; migration and integration; and decent work. To find out more about the potential and challenges that these policies offer to socially and economically disadvantaged or vulnerable people as well as to the organisations and staff providing personal social services for them.</p> <p>At European level: To inform and sensitise Members of the European Parliament and Candidates in view of the European Elections 2009 about the social realities, needs and expectations of socially and economically disadvantaged or vulnerable people and those working with them and providing personal social services for them on a daily basis.</p>
Translation:	English, French, German, Spanish

2. Draft Programme (as of 25 March 2009)

Tuesday, 28 April 2009: Arrival and welcome dinner, venue tbc

Time	Programme	Invited	Aims
14.00–19.00	Arrival of participants		
19.00–22.00	Welcome dinner	Participants from SOLIDAR members Members of the Socialist Group in the EP Members of the Socialist Group in the CoR FEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting of project partners and speakers at the conference ▪ Establish informal contacts

Wednesday, 29 April 2009: Together for Social Europe, European Parliament, Room A3G-2

Time	Session	Chairpersons and speakers	Aims
10:30-11:00	Welcome and Introduction	Chair: Conny Reuter, Secretary General, SOLIDAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Margot Wallström, Vice-President, European Commission (tbc) ▪ Jan Cremers, MEP ▪ Dr. Ernst Stetter, Director, FEPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the conference ▪ Setting the scene for the European Parliament Elections 2009
11:00-13:00	Social realities in Europe and the role of social NGOs	Co-Chairs: Claus Larsen-Jensen, Director, FIC (DK) (tbc)/ Harlem Désir MEP (tbc) Social workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social services and active citizenship, representative of AWO, D ▪ Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion/Social Inclusion, representative of Humanitas, NL / Pour la Solidarité, B ▪ Migration and integration, representative of ACPP, E ▪ Decent work (in Europe) [representative of Rada Pro Mezinarodni Vzťahy, CZ ▪ Guest speaker from Caritas Europe (tbc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Testimony of social realities as witnessed by SOLIDAR members ▪ Presentation of expectations and suggestions of local social workers to Members of the EP in view of the EP elections 2009

13:00-14:00	Lunch break		
14:00-15:15	Fighting poverty and social exclusion – Promoting decent working and living conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings between SOLIDAR social workers and MEPs of delegation country ▪ Informal Q&A and discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sensitise MEPs and Candidates for the Elections to the EP on the local social reality in their country ▪ Establish contacts with SOLIDAR members: <i>What do people expect from the new European Parliament?</i>
15:15-16:45	Conclusions: How to shape and advance Social Europe?	<p>Co-Chairs: Tamara Flanagan, CSV, GB/Joël Hasse Ferreira, MEP (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative of La Ligue de l'Enseignement, F ▪ Representative of LLES, LT ▪ Anna Colombo, Secretary General, PES Group in the EP ▪ Prof. Dr. Josef Weidenholzer, President, SOLIDAR/President, Volkshilfe Österreich 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants provide feedback to the Socialist Group in the EP and PES on the conference ▪ Presentation and adoption of SOLIDAR declaration "Together for Social Europe"
17:00	Departure		

