

Together for Social Europe Declaration

The call for a more social Europe is at the core of SOLIDAR's activities. SOLIDAR members contribute to a social Europe through their daily work as civil society organisations and social service providers – in Europe and worldwide. Today's challenge is how to reconcile the move towards economically competitive societies in a globalised world with the adequate social protection needed by citizens, especially in these times of crisis.

With this conference, social workers from SOLIDAR member organisations have come to the European Parliament in Brussels to present their experiences of working with socially and economically disadvantaged people to Members of the European Parliament. To share with these European decision makers the real challenges that they face working at local level with disadvantaged groups and vulnerable people, the impact that European policies have on them and what recommendations they suggest on how to improve social Europe.

In this declaration, SOLIDAR has six key messages for the European institutions:

1. Social Europe should be at the heart of the European integration process, and civil society organisations and citizens strongly involved in the construction of Europe.
2. Legal and policy frameworks need to be developed at European level and within Member States to guarantee accessible, affordable and quality social, health and education services which meet people's expectations and needs.
3. A real political commitment at all government levels and ambitious targets are essential to effectively eradicate poverty and fight social exclusion, and to promote and implement a policy of inclusion and of belonging to our society for persons with disabilities at European level.
4. Achieving a fairer redistribution of income and wealth and policies safeguarding public wealth are possible and should be aimed for.
5. Migration and integration policies must be based on rights and human dignity.
6. Decent Work, as part of a global challenge, also matters for Europe and actions to deliver Decent Work and the principle 'equal pay for equal work' need to be taken.

SOLIDAR believes that only when people feel that European policies meet their concerns and aspirations will they become fully involved in the further construction of the European Union. SOLIDAR has since the beginning of European integration advocated strongly for social and economic justice through social policies, high quality social services and lifelong learning in Europe.

Together for Social Europe!

SOLIDAR is a European network of 50 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR lobbies the EU and international institutions in three primary areas: social affairs (more social Europe), international cooperation (development cooperation) and education (lifelong learning for all). For more info www.solidar.org

1. SOCIAL EUROPE AT THE HEART OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

SOLIDAR's Position

Financial and economic crisis and increasing inequalities

We expect that the current severe financial and economic crisis will deteriorate the living and working conditions of many people. Even before autumn 2008, Europe witnessed an increasing number of working poor or people in precarious working conditions, growing inequalities in life chances, income and wealth, and persisting discriminations for various groups in our societies.

European Social Model to be reinforced

In this context SOLIDAR advocates more than ever for a European Social Model based on good economic performance, a high level of social protection and education, and social dialogue to become the reference frame for the revision and further development of the Lisbon Strategy after 2010. This reference frame should be further developed on the basis of achievements of the last decades such as a universally accessible systems of education and health, institutionalised solidarity within comprehensive social protection schemes, progressive taxation systems with redistribution effects to prevent big income gaps, the contribution of social protection to economic productivity and a high degree of social peace resulting from a well-articulated social partnership.

Social, health and education policies as investment in the future of our societies

As increasingly acknowledged, economic growth, better employment possibilities and social policies, particularly those with a strong element of investment in education, training and qualifications or equal opportunities measures, are mutually reinforcing.

Need to refocus on social cohesion and sustainable development

Policies guaranteeing mechanisms of solidarity and promoting social cohesion, social inclusion, as well as sustainable development are to be defended, developed and strengthened against the long prevailing growth, jobs and competitiveness focus of the Lisbon Strategy. In implementing the New Social Agenda, policies are to be prioritised that help face demographic change, support people in improving their skills and competencies through both formal and informal learning, adequately address (new) social risks and promote a better work-life balance including an improvement of shared responsibilities between women and men around family and care obligations.

Social Europe to become the leitmotiv of European integration

European integration cannot be confined to the single market and the single currency: these key projects must be complemented by economic governance, a strengthening of the social dimension, and an evolution towards a political union based on democratic and effective institutions, the full recognition of civil and social rights. SOLIDAR therefore calls for joint efforts of all institutions to make Social Europe the leitmotiv of European integration.

SOLIDAR's Recommendations

Europe should play a key role in ensuring the realisation of social rights

- SOLIDAR recalls the active role that the EU has to play to ensure the effective implementation of fundamental (social) rights as stipulated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Europe has, depending on policy field and topic, to set regulations (e.g. reimbursement of costs; liability of health professionals in trans-border healthcare; recognition of professional qualifications) or requirements (e.g. concerning conditions of access to services of general interest) and standards to prevent European citizens, in particular the most vulnerable, to lose out, also as a result of increased competition and the dynamics of the internal market integration.

Share the benefits of the European project

- Reinforce or build up trust in the EU by setting priorities and implementing policies promoting solidarity, equality, non-discrimination, diversity, mutual respect, pluralism and justice. SOLIDAR advocates for a Europe that builds on fundamental rights, justice, equality, non-discrimination, on fair chances in life and decent working conditions for all, on the full societal inclusion and participation of all citizens and people living in Europe, and on sustainable development.

Redirect the overarching policy strategies from a focus on growth, jobs and competitiveness to a strong emphasis on social and sustainable goals

- For European citizens to feel that Europe deals with their needs first and addresses their concerns in practical terms, Europe needs to refocus the overall priority of the Lisbon Strategy as the realisation of fundamental freedoms. Furthermore the additional construction of the internal market should not have an overall prevalence over social and sustainable development goals.

Reinforce OMCs and comprehensively involve social NGOs

- The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) has brought about concrete and positive effects, particularly by putting the issues of poverty and social exclusion on the agenda. SOLIDAR supports a reinforced, more effective and visible OMC in the fields of social protection and social inclusion, migration and integration as well as education and training. This is an indispensable tool to develop a more social Europe, acknowledging its limitations as a soft governance tool for policy areas where European Community competencies are of a shared nature or restricted.
- Better governance and ownership can be achieved by ensuring a comprehensive involvement of social NGOs at European, national, regional and local level in all phases of the process. To tap the full potential of the OMCs and in order to strengthen political commitment and accountability, a more active and decisive role of the European Parliament and national Parliaments is needed.

2. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS & CITIZENS NEED TO BE STRONGLY INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE

SOLIDAR's Position

Civil society organisations help to promote solidarity, human dignity, equality, justice and the public good

Our democracy and our societies depend on contributions from civil society, the millions of citizens who through their time and effort add to the public good; an involvement which is encouraged, organised and supported by self-initiated associations to make our world a better place. 'Organised civil society' endeavours to make its voice heard and to find a way to impact on decisions that in turn shape our societies.

Volunteering – a benefit both for our societies and the volunteers

SOLIDAR highlights that the involvement of volunteers is a benefit for both the volunteer and those people needing personal social services. In addition to citizenship capacity, volunteering fosters social inclusion and cohesion, as well as creates social capital. Volunteers are crucial for the detection of needs and the development of innovative solutions in social service provision. Volunteering is an investment in the future rather than a replacement of paid labour and a cost-saving measure.

SOLIDAR's Recommendations

Need for a European Statute for European associations to facilitate cross-border activities and cooperation of civil society organisations

- SOLIDAR advocates for a European Statute for associations (and supports requests for the same legal frame for mutual societies and foundations), to add to the already adopted European Statute for cooperatives. This legal status has to be conceptualised as an additional, non-obligatory instrument which can be adopted for trans-border activities, if considered advantageous by social economy actors. They should also have to take due account of the diversity of concepts and forms within Member States.

Make the European Year 2011 a reality to better recognise and encourage volunteering

- The contribution of civil society and the millions of citizens adding to the public good through their time and effort need to be further recognised and encouraged at European level, in particular in view of the European Year 2011 on Volunteering.

Strengthen civil dialogue as an indispensable and powerful tool of participatory democracy to better bridge the gap between European citizens and institutions

- By building on a strengthened civil dialogue at European and EU Member State level, civil society organisations could have a crucial intermediary role to contributing to ensure more transparent policy-making processes and to enable European citizens to regain more ownership of and develop higher levels of trust in the European project. By exchanging and consulting with NGO service providers, advocacy groups and other civil society organisations, the EU can have a direct access to the everyday reality of citizens throughout Europe.
- SOLIDAR is in support of moving forward and institutionalising models of civil dialogue such as the Citizens' Agora or the Citizens' Forum. Still more clarity is needed with regard to the channels, processes, institutional arrangements and institutional responsibilities to effectively feed into results, requests, statements of such formats of civil dialogue.

3. ENABLING FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS FOR SOCIAL, HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO BE DEVELOPED AND DEFENDED

SOLIDAR's Position

Investment in sustainable social infrastructures is essential and benefits all

Social, health, employment and education services play a crucial role in social protection schemes within Member States and to realise fundamental rights. SOLIDAR advocates for continued investment in sustainable social infrastructures with strong mechanisms of solidarity (across income groups, generations and regions) and important shares of collective financing, both also pre-conditions for economic recovery and social cohesion.

Further legal and policy frameworks at national and European level needed

What is therefore needed are adequate legal and policy frameworks at European level and within Member States to guarantee and promote access to affordable and quality education, life-long learning and social and health services of general interest for all.

SOLIDAR's Recommendations

Develop and defend adequate legal and policy frameworks at European level and within Member States for accessible, affordable and quality social services

- The concept of general interest needs to be brought back into the EU debate around social services of general interest (SSGI) as the point of departure and main reference. General interest concerns and objectives have to prevail in case of conflict with Community competition, state aid, public procurement or internal market rules.
- Building on a recognition of the specific characteristics of social services (realisation of social rights of individuals and groups and of social policy objectives of the society as a whole; institutional embeddedness in social protection systems) and of their users (e.g. informational asymmetry, often dependent, needing support and guidance, ill, in economically precarious situations) further policy and regulation needs to be developed.
- In support of competition in social markets, SOLIDAR advocates for this competition to be based on quality, meaning by this, e.g. services adapted to needs, integrated service delivery, provided by qualified staff on a continuous basis, embedded in local service infrastructure and communities allowing for NGO providers to offer services on their own initiative, responding to new needs.
- SOLIDAR supports the full application of the principles of non-discrimination and transparency between providers which also enables for the full respect of users' rights, users' choices and user participation in the design and evaluation of these services.
- SOLIDAR supports the elaboration of a voluntary framework of quality principles and guidelines at European level.

Make full use of Lisbon Treaty stipulations on Services of General Interest

- SOLIDAR calls upon Member States governments, the European institutions and the European Parliament to make full use of the relevant article (Art. 14) and Protocol (No. 9) on services of general interest (SGI) in the Lisbon Treaty once it has entered in force.

- SOLIDAR calls upon the European institutions, in particular the European Parliament, to support the setting up of framework conditions allowing the competent public authorities in Member States to make full usage of their competencies and responsibilities in view of the organisation, regulation, financing and evaluation of (social) services of general interest.

Promote strong and independent social NGOs as part of social economy

- In this context strong and independent social NGOs play a crucial role as actors in the social economy. They involve qualified professional staff and volunteers, operate based on specific sets of objectives and values and reinvest possible surplus to advance them. They need a level playing field both due to the setting up of social markets which also means competition between providers and in view of possible cross-border service provision in the internal market.
- SOLIDAR calls on European institutions to promote and recognise the plurality of forms of economic activity, including models of operation used in the field of social economy. Other forms of entrepreneurship and the principle of reinvestment of possible surpluses into own activities make it possible to give priority to the realisation of objectives of social and territorial cohesion. Equal treatment and level playing fields rather than assimilation to for-profit models are needed.

Support initiatives allowing a better realisation of a social and green policy agenda

- SOLIDAR stresses the need to finally publish a European Commission guide to take due account of social considerations in public procurement, including decent working conditions, and to promote their use. This would allow the inclusion of social and ethical considerations in public procurement and facilitate the implementation of policies supportive to the realisation of social and sustainable policy objectives according to the shared values of the EU and respective of the individual and collective fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Employment creation and growth potential of social, health and education services – working conditions and qualification of those working in this sector

- Good working conditions, remuneration and access to lifelong learning, adequately valuing qualified work and attractive framework conditions for the involvement of volunteers need to be promoted. SOLIDAR calls for investment in qualification (vocational training, continued training, lifelong learning programmes) of personnel employed in social services, as qualified staff and volunteer work are essential for the provision of quality services. The role of SSGI offering and promoting employment opportunities for marginalised and disadvantaged groups also needs to be legally and politically safeguarded.
- Documented and undocumented migrant workers in social care professions need to be better protected. This entails taking better into account the mobility of qualified staff and of other migrant workers in the sector by for example clarifying the interplay of European and national rules on the posting of workers and temporary work agencies that currently risk leaving migrant workers at a disadvantage or exposed to unclear conditions.

4. FIGHTING POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION - ACTIVE INCLUSION

SOLIDAR's Position

Many people are facing poverty and inadequate income – and gaps are widening

- Today 78 million people are living in or are at risk of poverty in the EU27, this means 1 out of 7 European citizens, amongst whom 1 out of 5 children. Although many have full-time jobs, multiple jobs or receive pensions or benefits from social protection schemes, their income is still too low to protect them from falling into poverty, entailing the risk of exclusion from society.
- The working poor represent 6% of employees and 17% of the self-employed in the EU. And among large and growing sections of the population there is growing sense of precarity and anxiety of being trapped in a social downward spiral.
- At the same time the rich in our societies get richer and the wealth is concentrated in fewer hands.
- Even though progress has been made, the gender pay gap still is wide at least in some countries and sectors as well as due to dominant career and working time patterns linked to caring obligations.
- Equal pay for equal work and decent working conditions also still have to be fought for and achieved, even more so with increasing shares of temporary agency work and posted work.

Political commitment as well as ambitious and monitored targets for poverty eradication are needed

Facing these social realities, real political commitment is required in order to advance in reducing poverty and the various forms of social exclusion. EU policies including the Lisbon Strategy need to be reoriented and aimed at achieving socially inclusive and cohesive societies. This commitment should be underlined by setting policy targets for poverty reduction for 2015 and 2020 at all political levels.

The internal and external dimensions of the fight against poverty and social exclusion cannot be uncoupled

SOLIDAR asks that the European dimension of the fight against poverty and social exclusion not be dissociated from global challenges linked to migration, climate change, decent work and implementation of International Labour Organisation (ILO) core labour standards, etc.

SOLIDAR's Recommendations

Promote poverty-proof and non-discriminatory policies

- With the current economic crisis and growing levels of inequality and poverty in Europe, SOLIDAR asks for mainstreaming an anti-poverty and anti-discrimination orientation into main economic, employment and social policies.

Eradicate extreme forms of poverty and break the cycle of intergenerational transmission

- SOLIDAR recalls that aiming towards eradicating extreme forms of social exclusion and poverty needs special attention, focus, resources and a mid- to long-term perspective.
- Stereotypes in relation to "people experiencing poverty" must be broken and respect for human rights, including social and economic rights, must be defended as the basis for a decent society.
- The cycle of poverty needs to be broken, not least by investing in the wellbeing of children. Education systems, including pre-school services, must embrace diversity, break social barriers and ensure that every child can fulfil their true potential. We also need to ensure opportunities for continuous education throughout people's working lives. Education also is a preventive measure for social exclusion.

Promote and implement a policy of inclusion and of belonging to our society for persons with disabilities at European level

- These include the fields of compulsory education, vocational education, training, lifelong learning and education, equal opportunities in access to employment and qualifications, and the full participation in cultural, social, sporting and political domains.

Safeguard public wealth and robust social infrastructures

- SOLIDAR stresses the need for policy frameworks at both European and national level supportive of safeguarding public wealth and robust social infrastructures, enabling the realisation of general interest objectives, putting in practice mechanisms of financial solidarity, and insofar allowing for an effective fight against poverty and social exclusion.
- Achieving a fairer redistribution of income and wealth as well as policies to safeguard public wealth are possible and should be aimed at.

Implement the Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion

- Welcoming the adoption by the European Commission of a Recommendation on Active Inclusion – as a policy mix of adequate income, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services – SOLIDAR recalls that active inclusion is an important element, but not the only one, of a more comprehensive concept and framework for social inclusion.
- Minimum income schemes are essential for human dignity, and are vital tools for fighting against poverty and to provide decent work. These schemes, however, need to be implemented in a way to avoid stigmatisation of people receiving them. The allocation of benefits should be unconditional of people's chances of participation in the labour market. They also should not only cover EU citizens, but also refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

- When implementing the European Commission's Recommendation on Active Inclusion additional principles should be included under the "access to services" strand, e.g. non-discrimination concerning access and use, rights and empowerment of users, good working conditions, proper financing in accordance with local, regional and national circumstances, and continuous and timely delivery.

Promote active labour market policies that address inequalities and strongly involve social partners – flexicurity strategies cannot only increase flexibility

- For SOLIDAR labour law is about effectively protecting individual and collective rights. SOLIDAR is in favour of flexicurity policies if designed in a way not to increase insecurity or precarious conditions for more vulnerable groups in relation to the labour market.
- Active labour market policies, that are not discriminatory, but interventionist and tailor-made building on users' needs, such as people with disabilities or health problems, should be supported in coordination with social protection systems, in order to bring people in precarious situations and far from the labour market back into employment and prevent the perpetuation of segregated labour markets.
- Inequalities in the labour market need to be directly addressed in order to eliminate discrimination in recruitment procedures, and ensuring access to promotion and training. Equal access to vocational training and lifelong learning are preconditions to promote reintegration into the labour market and should be ensured by labour law. The importance of non-formal education and voluntary activities in acquiring qualifications and competencies need to be acknowledged. To better address structural barriers preventing access of people to labour market inclusion, SOLIDAR stresses the need of formal and informal education (skills, qualifications, activities to prepare for labour market re-insertion e.g. trainings for job application).

5. MIGRATION & INTEGRATION BASED ON RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

SOLIDAR's Position

An increased coherence in European migration and integration policies needed

The EU's current migration and integration policies partly lack coherence, as they promote, at the same time, 'brain-drain' from Central and Eastern European countries and other countries around the globe, by accepting high skilled migrants, and shutting its doors to the less qualified, unskilled and poor, or offering them double standards by denying them access to the whole range of welfare and employment rights. There is the risk that a two-tier entitlement system is being consolidated.

Migration and integration should be based on rights and human dignity

- For SOLIDAR, a Social Europe based on solidarity must develop integration policies and measures for migrants from EU and third countries, refugees and asylum seekers based on civil and human rights.
- A comprehensive EU approach to illegal immigration should thus include measures geared towards ensuring migrants' basic social rights.
- SOLIDAR calls for introducing a common European migration policy, a common admissions procedure for economic migration and coordination of national admissions policies.
- Effective policies for integration should be put at the heart of Europe's migration policies. This means that for migrants from EU countries and third country migrants. All Member States should provide access to language-learning and respect for cultural diversity; ensure the right to vote and access to education and childcare, with both a right and a duty to learn the language of the host country; there must be rights for migrants to seek jobs and to enjoy full trade union rights; employers who exploit migrants should face penalties.

SOLIDAR's Recommendations

Better balance needs and benefits of host societies with needs and interests of migrant workers

- In spite of the challenges Europe will have to face as a result of profound demographic and social changes, SOLIDAR refuses migration and integration policies exclusively or predominantly

building on utilitarian considerations and the benefits for the host society, and largely disregarding the interest of the immigrants.

- After having benefited from the arrival of migrant workers during phases of economic expansion, European countries should not fall into economic nationalism and turn their backs on one of the most vulnerable groups. European institutions, governments and all relevant actors are responsible to build an inclusive society, where racism and xenophobic attitudes cannot be tolerated.
- Issues such as low pay, low status, unsociable work schedules (night, shift and weekend work), lacking or insufficient social protection linked to jobs in some sectors where the EU is experiencing staff shortages, such as in long-term care with increasing numbers of undocumented migrants, have to be tackled. The EU should promote framework conditions in the social protection systems allowing for better pay and working conditions for migrant workers. Migrants and EU citizens alike should be offered decent working conditions and comprehensive social protection systems including workers in the health and care sector.

Integration policies designed as a “two-way process”

- SOLIDAR advocates for integration policies designed as a “two-way process” which include the active involvement of migrant associations and civil society organisations, and also requires Member States to provide migrants with opportunities to fully participate in society and undocumented migrants with access to services that are essential to guarantee fundamental rights.
- Intercultural learning and intercultural dialogue are the premise for living together in a society based on mutual respect and cultural diversity.

Promote integration by duly addressing the challenge posed by migration to education systems

- Challenges faced by children with migrant backgrounds need special attention. Prioritising equity in education and preventing school segregation, reducing institutional barriers and fostering access of migrant children to early school education, and developing intercultural skills and including anti-discrimination and education on values at all levels of education systems are measures needed to ensure that schools play their crucial role in building inclusive and cohesive societies. Civil society organisations also play a role here in providing supplementary education and accompanying services, also better involving parents in their children’s schooling.

Address the issue of undocumented migrants

- Millions of undocumented migrants live in the EU. Their presence cannot simply be ignored, addressed in terms of border management and/or (an often unachievable) regularisation. In line with provisions made by the Commission in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, SOLIDAR recalls that Member States must ensure that undocumented migrants have access to services that are essential to guarantee fundamental rights (e.g. education of children, basic healthcare). An additional commitment to actively inform undocumented immigrants about their rights regardless of their non-legal status is still necessary. Children of undocumented migrants should have access to primary and secondary education.

Ensure partnership approach towards migration and integration

- Partnerships between public authorities, social partners, civil society organisations and migrants’ organisations have to be put in place or further developed.

6. DECENT WORK IN EUROPE - PART OF A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

SOLIDAR’s Position

Decent Work also matters for Europe

Decent Work is a strategy to achieve sustainable development that is centered on people. Decent Work is a key element to build fair, equitable and inclusive societies being based around the principles of employment creation, workers’ rights, equality between women and men, social protection and social dialogue. Decent Work is about equal access to employment without discrimination, about fair salaries for workers to allow them and their families to live in dignity, about

absence of exploitation, about social protection in case of illness, pregnancy or the general risks of the life cycle. Decent Work means allowing people to organise themselves to represent their interests collectively through trade unions.

The external dimension of Decent Work

Social Europe also has an external dimension in an increasingly globalised world. The EU has committed itself to promoting decent work for all through all its internal and external policies. But to this day, its trade policies destroy jobs, its migration policies perpetuate exploitation, its debt policies promote the free market over the redistribution of wealth.

SOLIDAR's Recommendations

Include Decent Work in the European agenda

- SOLIDAR calls for a “translation” of the decent work agenda to European social realities. This means developing and implementing policies to target a reduction in the number of working poor, the incidence of precarious working conditions, to address aspects of labour market segmentation and undocumented work of migrants). Its key components and objectives should be referred to in relevant EU employment and social policies, in particular in the context of active inclusion, and have a more prominent place in the Lisbon Strategy and the Renewed Social Agenda.
- The fundamental pillars of decent work are in place in Europe: anti-discrimination directives and the principle of gender equality, the right of every citizen to healthcare and social services, labour laws. This also holds for social dialogue involving employers and trade unions. SOLIDAR calls on the European Commission and the European Parliament to transform a commitment to the social dimension in the Lisbon Strategy into clear actions to deliver Decent Work for all in the EU.

Make Decent Work a central element in labour law reform

- The concept of decent work needs to be a clear point of reference in the debate on the reform of labour law and as a guiding principle for employment policies, not least in order to ensure adequate minimum income for wages or salaries.
- SOLIDAR defends the principle “equal pay for equal work”. Non-discrimination and equal treatment are core values of the EU and cornerstones of the European Social Model that social NGOs and trade unions are fighting for. Applying different conditions to a growing number of workers on a same territory is undermining this principle and the principle of a level playing field, with strong negative effects on individual and societal levels (trust; accepting rules; fairness).

Promote Decent Work worldwide

SOLIDAR¹ and our international partners in the Global Network aim for a fair partnership between continents based on:

- Social protection rights which are fundamental rights for everybody;
- Decent working and living conditions also within EU Member States and worldwide;
- Core labour standards and a broad range of social considerations need to be respected and implemented in EU trade policies and in public procurement.

Reinforce international solidarity

- Europe should take into account the impact of their immigration policies on third country labour markets, and should be committed to the reinforcement of international solidarity by promoting the Decent Work Agenda and its full implementation, and the full respect for ILO core labour standards in the migrant countries of origin.
- In its negotiations with third countries the EU should ensure that mandates include an adequate level of attention to social and labour issues, in line with the commitment made by the EU in its prior statements on trade, decent work and the social dimension of globalisation.

¹ Since 2007 SOLIDAR in close cooperation with other international and European level organisations has been running the Decent Work Decent Life campaign. For more info: www.decentwork.org