



ACTIVITY REPORT

SOLIDARITY AT THE HEART OF EU MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES

On the 9th and 10th of February 2015, SOLIDAR in collaboration with the International Trade Union Confederation, CGIL, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, and UGTT hosted the Trade Union Network on Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Migrants (RSMMS) to Brussels. Together, they organized two capacity building workshops, held bilateral meetings with the European Commission and organized a roundtable discussion to tackle the ongoing challenges related to EU migration policy in the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan region.

SOLIDAR strongly supports the engagement of Trade Unions and civil society in defining a new approach to EU migration policy based on fundamental rights, in the framework of the revision of the European Neighborhood Policy, the EU strategic framework and action plan on human Rights, the post-2015 agenda on development and the revision of the EU agenda on Migration.

DAY 1

The EU should adopt a global approach to migration in consultation with Trade Unions and CSOs!

On the 9th of February, the RSMMS met with representatives from the European Commission, DG HOME Laura Corrado, Myriam Watson and Laurent Muschel, and with Fabrizia Panzetti, member of Cabinet of the High Representative Federica Mogherini. During the meetings, the RSMMS insisted on the need for the EU to adopt a global approach to migration that is coherent with the other bilateral agreements undertaken with third countries and ENP action plans. In this context, the meeting highlighted the utmost urgency to enhance Trade Union and CSOs capacity and to promote inclusive and effective dialogue with national governments and the EU institution to ensure better coordination in migration management flow, but also to ensure adequate and timely consultation on Mobility Partnerships. You can read more about the meeting [here](#).

DAY 2

SOLIDAR launches its Advisory group on Migration and Fundamental rights!

On February 10 the first meeting of the SOLIDAR advisory group on migration and fundamental rights took place in Brussels.

Members of Advisory group agreed unanimously that the ongoing human tragedies of thousands of migrants died in their attempt to reach European borders, the growing anti-immigrant sentiment across Europe as well as the increasing racist and xenophobic positions in the political debate

represent the historical momentum for civil society organisations to be united in advocating for change in the EU migration, development and neighborhood policies.

During the meeting, members coming from Italy, Spain, France, Serbia, Germany, Norway and other countries exchanged idea on possible common initiatives in this field. In particular, members agreed they will work together on the following issue: - **promoting a right-based approach to migration based on a more efficient responsibility-sharing system and improved harmonisation of protection's standards in the framework of the EU migration policies with particular regards to the possible revision of the Dublin regulation**; - ensuring full access to fundamental rights and equal opportunities for migrants; - fighting racism, xenophobia, the 'logic of invasion' and busting myths linked to migration in the public debate.

The EU should put Fundamental Rights at the Heart of its Migration agenda!

On the 10th in the afternoon, **SOLIDAR** in cooperation with **ITUC, CGIL, UGTT and FES** organized a round table on "Rights-based approach to migration: the Role of the Trade Union Network on Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Migrants", that brought together representatives from the RSMMS, European CSOs and saw the participation of **Simona Ranalli, Programme Manager from Migration at the European Commission DG NEAR**.

During the round table, **Luca Visentini from the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)** insisted on the **need to increase cooperation among Trade Unions across the Mediterranean and Sub Saharan Region as well as to promote a rights-based approach to migration at the EU level and to advocate for a shift from the current security-based approach**. In this context, **Chidi King and Natacha David from the International Trade Union Confederation** pointed out that the EU should provide more legal channels for migration in order to **prevent human trafficking and enhance protection of migrant workers' rights in accordance with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**.

Jara Henar from the CONCORD Working Group on Migration and Development, and Marie Martin, from the Euro-Mediterranean Network on Human Rights called for the EU to put stronger focus on the inclusion of a **rights-based approach on migration within the review of the ENP, post-2015 agenda and to ensure policy coherence in order to secure the human rights impact of the EU external, migration and development policies and their compliance with the rule of law standards and their democratic accountability**.

As a result from these two days SOLIDAR strongly calls for:

- Promoting a **right-based migration policy** based on a more efficient **responsibility-sharing system and improved harmonisation of protection's standards among Member States** which the mechanisms that are in place now such as the Dublin system and FRONTEX missions fail to ensure. Also, by **deconstructing the discourse of securitisation of borders**, which is the basis for the multiplication of dangers on the migratory routes into EU and for strengthening the smuggling networks.
- The European Institutions to invest on the immediate opening **of humanitarian corridors** with the involvement of the United Nations.
- European institutions to ensure that people seeking asylum are able to freely choose the Member State in which they want to move in. The implementation of the **European residence permit for temporary protection** foreseen by the Directive 55/2001 could be a way to partially overcome the obstacles derived by the Dublin Regulation that stipulates that asylum seekers have to ask for asylum in the country where they arrive.

- European Institutions to **promote equal access to public and social services for migrants arriving to the European Union, especially with regard to health, education and housing services for all**, in accordance with the Charter for Fundamental rights of the European Union.
- **Ensure effective consultation with Trade Union and CSO** in the negotiation process of Mobility Partnerships and bilateral agreements, as well as in the revision of ENP, post 2015 and migration agenda.



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