What social platform did in 2009

2009 was the year after the financial crisis hit and became a general crisis. It also saw European elections held, a new Commission appointed, and negotiations for the Lisbon Treaty take place.

Thanks to the work of its members, Social Platform played an active role in ringing alarm bells on the crisis at European level, regularly informing EU leaders of the sharp increase in demand for social services as people turned to the not-for-profit sector for support.

At the same time, we emphasised that there was 'a crisis before the crisis'. We made sure decision makers did not forget that 78 million Europeans were already living below the poverty line prior to the financial crash, and underlined that these people should not be further marginalised.

We focused on recovery plans and the growing public deficits, concerned that after the considerable bail-out given to banks and industry to save the system and jobs, there would be few funds left to invest in social protection or to show solidarity with EU countries most affected by the crisis. We consistently fought against the 'business as usual' attitude that followed the financial collapse, and stressed the vital role played by social protection as an automatic stabiliser. Together with ETUC, EEB and Concord, we launched the Spring Alliance to challenge the economic paradigm of the EU and excessive deregulation, helping to enable a massive civil society mobilisation to influence the EU's overarching strategy for the next ten years.





2009 was also dedicated to building and maintaining pressure around two essential directives to improve people's lives in Europe: on anti-discrimination and maternity leave. We organised two study visits ahead of the Spanish and Belgian presidencies, to build bridges

between civil society organisations of new and older member states. Finally, we adopted important common positions during the year that will form the basis of our future advocacy efforts, like a set of recommendations to improve the open method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion, and a framework for enhancing the dialogue between decision makers and civil society.

In 2010 we'll focus on building fresh alliances between civil society and the new decision makers in the EU institutions, to advance our agenda and strengthen Social Platform. We'll be working hard to ensure that the common European project remains just that - common to all member states - and that the words and commitments of EU leaders translate into real social progress for the people of Europe.

Yours,

Conny Reuter, President

Roshan Di Puppo, Director

Published

Issue 3 of

Engage (/

Met MEPs to discuss amendments on anti-discrimination directive (Jan 6)

Adopted tests for upcoming Czech EU

Presidency (Jan 7)

Organised debate on post-Lisbor strategy with leading academic Jonathan Zeitlin (Jan 15)

Met Czech, Swedish and Spanish Social Affairs ministers in Brussels to present proposals for adequate minimum income schemes and quality work (Jan 21)

Adopted common position on parental leave directive (Jan 7)

Published assessmen of the French EU presidency, and tests for Czech EU

presidency (Jan 14

Welcomed Pauleen Colligan as Policy and Communications Officer, eplacing Richard

spring alliance

Launched Spring Alliance

(Feb 1)

website and visual identity

Met MEPs and Commission to present proposals for maternity leave directive (Mar 5, 23)

> Published proposals for maternity leave directive and sent them to key stakeholders (Mar 10)

Met Commission to discuss post-Lisbon process with Spring Alliance partners (Mar 11)

rganised skills sharing session for communications staff of Platform members on press work and publications (Mar 11

Responded to Commission's consultation on financial inclusion (Apr 6)

Participated in Employment Troika workshops in Madrid, Stockholm and Prague (Apr 15, 20, 27)

Published Annual Report 2008 (Apr 20

Met Commissioner Grybauskaité on EU budget reform, emphasising that solidarity should be a financially supported EU objective (Apr 21)

Spoke at European

Integration Forum

in Brussels on the

rights of migrants



Issue 2 of

point plan for EU Fundamental Rights employment ministers Platform in Vienna to address social crisis (May 6)

Met Fundamental Rights Published toolkit in 15 Agency in Brussels to languages with Civil Society present how social civil Contact Group, to raise society organisations awareness of European work (May 7) elections (May 8)

Participated at

(May 5)

Met Commissioner Barrot to discuss civil dialogue and fundamental rights, ahead of publication of Stockholm Programme (May 11)

> Spoke at EESC's Civil Society Day in Brussels (May 14)

> > Spoke at General Assembly

of European Social Insurance

Platform in Brussels (May 20)

Announced three-Developed mapping of Commission's processes to guarantee universal access to public services (Jun 4)

> Held bi-annual meeting with Commission, with Commissioner Špidla (Jun 9)

Adopted scorecard for Swedish presidency, common position on civil dialogue, and proposals to strengthen Open Method of Coordination (Jun 11)

Wrote to Fundamental

for good governance

Rights Agency with

recommendations

Organised skills sharing session for Stockholm Programme communications staff of Platform Jul 131 members on social media tools (Jun 15

Met Swedish ministry

November (Jul 16)

representatives to discuss

agenda of Equality Summit in

Participated in informal meeting of social affairs ministers in Jönköping, Sweden, presenting proposals for more inclusive labour markets and active social security policies (Jul 7)

Spoke at

Commission's

Conference on

health of young

people (Jul 10)

High Level

Adopted Spring Alliance manifesto, together with its campaign partners (Jul 9

> Wrote to EU Justice and Home Affairs ministers or

sharing session for administrative staff of Platform members, and launched administration network for bestpractice sharing (Sep 1)

Organised first skills

Organized study visit to Madrid to strengthen links between Spanish civil society and European NGO networks. More than 120 representatives of Spanish and Central European countries attended (Sep 7-8)

discuss priorities of Spanish presidency in Contributed to Council Working Group social field (Sep 7-8) on anti-discrimination (Sep 7

and Gender Equality in Stockholm Recommendations for an effective to discuss anti-discrimination directive (Sep 3) inclusion" (Oct 2)

Met Spanish Labour

Minister in Madrid to

and Immigration

Held screening of social documentary for Platform

> Co-organised Civil Society Fair in Brussels, to inform newly-elected MEPs of work of European civil society networks and promote partnership (Oct 6-8)

Open Method of Coordination and officially presented joint declaration on social protection and social with ETUC titled "Fight discrimination and guarantee equality for all" (Nov 16-17)

SG MC WG

Published declaration with ETUC

Spoke at Equality Summit in Stockholm

Wrote to Presidents of Commission Council and European Parliament calling for them to postpone adoption of Europe 2020 Strategy and allow time for democratic debate (Nov 18)

and NGO representatives on antidiscrimination directive (Dec 15)

Organised

meeting with

legal experts

Wrote to President Barroso with four proposals to improve EU 2020 Strategy (Dec 17)

Responded to

Commission's

consultation

on financial

regulation

MC WG MAC

anti-discrimination directive (Jan 29

kick-off conference in Brussels with campaign partners. Commission Secretary Genera and Swedish Environment Minister were among keynote speakers (Jan 29-30)



February

Spoke at EPP public hearing on

Organised Spring Alliance



Disseminated "9 Principles", a paper calling for an EU quality framework for social and health services, to 4,000 key stakeholders (Feb 11) secialplatform

> Adopted common position on amendments to maternity leave directive (Feb 19)

Spoke at Czech presidency conference on migration in Prague (Feb 26-27)

social documentary for Platform members (Mar 24)

Wrote to Heads of State ahead of Spring Summit with proposals to restart economy and protect people from crisis (Mar 13)

Met Commission to discuss role of social and health services in its recovery plan (Mar 19

Wrote to President Barroso and Czech presidency with proposals to make Employment Summit more participatory (Mar 20)

Responded to

Commission's

inequalities (Mar 3)

Held screening of

Spoke at Czech presidency conference on social services in Prague (Apr 22-23)

> Welcomed Sian Jones, Michel Mercadié and Heather Roy to Platform's Management Committee, replacing Markus Held,

consultation on healt

Met Fundamental Rights Agency to advise on governance issues (Apr 24

social objectives in public procurement (Apr 28) Patricia Prendiville and Claire Roumet (Apr 24)

Brussels on "Europe in recession: who is looking after the

Organised workshop

with Commission on

European Blind Union conference

in Dublin (May 16)

with Commission (May 25) Spoke at EPC event in Wrote to President Barroso with consumers?" (Apr 30) recommendations for Commission's

Organised workshop with Commission on social impact

Wrote to Commissioner Barrot with

(May 19)

Communication on employment (May 26

Wrote to Swedish assessment **Employment Minister with** proposals for Equality Summit in November (May 2)

recommendations to improve civil dialogue Spoke at Workability Europe conference on "Financial and Economic Challenges'

> in Bucharest (May 26-27)

Organised Spring Spoke at conference Alliance consensus of Platform of NGOs

Published assessment of Commission's lobby register with Civil Society

Contact Group

for Social Action in

Madrid (Jun 16)

Participated in Commission's stakeholders consultation on enterprise, to push for more focus on social economy (Jun 18)

building conference

campaign partners.

95 representatives of

civil society attended

to finalise a common

manifesto (Jun 17)

in Brussels with

Spoke at Commission's annual conference of non-discrimination in Budapest (Jun 25.

Participated in Addressed Social Protection first meeting of Committee in Stockholm (Sep 1 advisory panel of Fundamental Rights Agency in

Commission, with campaign partners (Jul 22) DG EMPL Director



Held bi-annual Met President Barroso to present meeting with Spring Alliance manifesto with



Vienna (Sep 7)

Organised Spring Alliance consensus-building conference in Brussels, with campaign partners. 215 representatives of civil society and EU officials attended, including President Barroso (Sep 28)

Designed and published Spring Alliance manifesto and campaign collateral (Sep 24)

Organised lunch briefing on

for next Commission (Sep 18)

implications of political quidelines

Published revised position on maternity leave directive

Spoke at Round Table on Poverty and

Social Exclusion in Stockholm (Oct 15-16)

Contributed to Council Working Group on anti-discrimination

Spoke at High Level

Market Inclusion in

Conference on Labour

Stockholm (Oct 26-27

Wrote to President Barroso with proposals

for new Commissioner portfolio on Justice,

Fundamental Rights and Civil Liberties (Oct 1)

Published

Issue 4 of

Engage (0

for Voluntary Social Work in Örebro, Sweden (Oct 26-27)

Spoke at Forum

with ETUC to media

Announced

declaration

joint

December

SG MC MAC WG

communications staff of Platform members on developing and maintaining websites (Nov 26)



Organised skills sharing session for

Wrote to EU Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs, ahead of EPSSCO council, calling for them to adopt an ambitious anti-discrimination directive (Nov 26)

Organised study visit to Brussels to strengthen links

between Belgian civil society and European NGO networks. 55 representatives of NGOs in Belgian and Central and Eastern European countrie attended (Nov 30-Dec

Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 42 pan-European networks of NGOs, Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

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