



FEVR
354 rue de Neudorf
L-2222 Luxembourg

Phone: +352 26432121
Fax: +352 26432243
president@fevr.org

Press Release

20 November 2011

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims **On 20 November 2011 – the third Sunday of November**

official theme for 2011

From Global Remembrance to Global Action across the Decade

Let's make 2011-2020 a Decade to remember!

FEVR's additional theme

United to improve crash prevention, investigation and victim services

The World Day has a long history – it is being observed this year for the 18th time by road victim advocacy NGOs, in particular those from Europe under FEVR's umbrella, who established the Day, and for the 7th year globally – by NGOs, governments and other stakeholders, following the recognition by the UN on 26th October 2005.

This year's theme has been chosen to remind all those who are not yet aware of the fact that on 11th May 2011 the first ever Decade of Action for Road Safety was launched – declared in early 2010 and promoted by the United Nations as an opportunity for global action to reduce the global road casualty toll.

UN Secretary General Mr Ban ki Moon asked governments to prepare national plans at the outset of the Decade. The UN Road Safety Collaboration, made up of international organizations, governments, nongovernmental organizations (FEVR among them), foundations and private sector bodies, has produced a **Global Plan for the Decade of Action** – to serve as a guiding document for activities throughout the globe, according to five pillars: RS management, Safer roads & mobility, Safer vehicles, Safer road users, and Post crash response. http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/en/

It is the fifth Pillar – Post crash response – which is of particular importance to FEVR and its member organizations, i.e. crash investigation, criminal and civil justice and medical and social care for victims. Our slogan is therefore a very apt reminder for the World Day - that in order to prevent further crashes, those that have not been prevented must be treated with the utmost seriousness, so as to acknowledge the loss and suffering of bereaved families, and injured victims and their families.

Dr Etienne Krug of WHO, Chair of the UN Road Safety Collaboration, has issued a message, in six world languages, to be found on http://www.who.int/roadsafety/remembrance_day/statement_2011/en/index.html

Antonio Avenoso, ETSC Director, sent the following message:

“We call on the European Institutions to view the 2011 Day of Remembrance as an opportunity to take action to reduce the number of people killed and injured on the road. Today we remember those who suffered while exercising one of their rights, the right to mobility and travel. But we must not stop there; today we should also remember that many of the people killed on the roads could have been with us today if only some simple, proven methods to improve road safety had been implemented. We urge Europe to take the lead in promoting road safety world-wide and hope that the adoption of the Vision-Zero in the 2011 White Paper on Transport will mean that by 2050 there will be no more casualties to mourn on November 21st”.

The new **TISPOL (European Traffic Police) president, Pasi Kemppainen**, said: TISPOL fully supports this year's World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims. Every time someone dies in a road crash, many people experience unimaginable pain and grief - not only members of the immediate family, but also by a much wider network of friends, acquaintances and associates. Life changes forever: it is in every sense a catastrophe. In Europe last year, more than 30,000 families suffered the loss of a loved one. TISPOL is committed to working tirelessly to reduce this number and to make European roads much safer.

Jeannot Mersch, FEVR President, said:

This year we are proud to announce that also the **European Parliament** has included in their **resolution of 27 September 2011 on European road safety 2011-2020** a call to the Commission and Member States to officially recognize the third Sunday in November as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in order to raise public awareness of this issue. Many thanks to all the Members of Parliament who voted in favor of this topic presented by Luxemburg's MEP Georges Bach. We thus hope to see “our” day gaining recognition in all the EU member countries by 2020. To see that this is achieved, is one of FEVR's aims in our plans for the Decade of Action.

Contact details:

Jeannot Mersch +352 26 432 121 president@fevr.org

Brigitte Chaudhry +44 20 8964 1800 editor@wdor.org

The European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, FEVR, is an umbrella organization of currently 22 national organizations from 15 European countries, who in their countries represent the voices of road crash victims and work for road danger reduction.

A Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was introduced by RoadPeace in 1993 and observed by the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) as European Day of Remembrance for 10 years, before being adopted by the UN in 2005 as World Day. RoadPeace and FEVR collaborated with the World Health Organisation and produced a Guide for organizers of World Day of Remembrance commemorations.

More information: http://www.who.int/roadsafety/remembrance_day/en/index.html

NGOs advocating for road victims and safer roads have compiled a Declaration for the Decade of Action, comprising 33 recommendations to governments:

http://www.who.int/roadsafety/ministerial_conference/ngo_declaration.pdf