



European Federation of Road Traffic Victims

4, rue Jos Felten L-1508 Howald

www.fevr.org

president@fevr.org

Mr Ban Ki-moon

Secretary General
United Nations Secretariat
New York, NY 10017

Luxemburg 4th of May 2015

Concerns: Appointment of FIA president as special UN envoy for Road Safety

Dear Mr. Secretary General

I am writing to you as President of FEVR, the European Federation for Road Traffic Victims, representing 24 NGOs advocating for Road Safety & Road Victims in Europe - where over 25,000 people lose their lives on the roads each year and approximately 300,000 are injured.

We, as road traffic victims, totally disagree with the appointment of FIA president Jean Todt as special UN envoy for Road Safety. We had already communicated our concerns about this nomination in a letter of 29 July 2014 sent to Mrs. Mallcora, who responded at that time to advise us that such a nomination was not under consideration.

Now, just 3 days before the start of the 3rd UN Road Safety week, we were extremely surprised and disappointed to learn that this appointment has indeed happened, despite our earlier communication.

FEVR has now been left with no alternative but to formally dissociate itself from this appointment. Mr Todt may certainly do a good job in his domain, the racing industry, but is for us Road Victims not the right personality to be a credible advocate for all road users, particularly the most vulnerable - pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities.

FEVR is not against cars, we also have to use them sometimes. We are also not against racing in closed circuits. We are further very much in favour of ensuring that the safety features, which are so effective in cars sold in Europe, are extended to all cars sold in developing countries.

***FEVR has consultative status (roster) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
UN Road Safety Collaboration Forum Member, ETSC and Global NGO Alliance board member***



European Federation of Road Traffic Victims

4, rue Jos Felten L-1508 Howald

www.fevr.org

president@fevr.org

However, with this appointment of Mr Todt to the position of UN Special Envoy for Road Safety, we believe that a signal is being sent to the world, and especially NGO's working for safer roads and traffic victims, which is going in the wrong direction.

I and all of my colleagues at FEVR are very, very sad about this. Also, because this appointment was announced 3 days before the start of the UN Road Safety Week, which we now feel too disheartened and disappointed to participate in, as previously planned. Many of us have already signed the declaration and encouraged many others to do so too, but after this surprise development we feel that, morally, we have been left with no option but to cancel all planned FEVR activities.

This 3rd UN Road Safety week will stay in our memory as one which has been accompanied by a weak signal to the Road Danger Reduction Community, one which has frustrated our efforts rather than enhanced them. Sadly, what could have been a great opportunity to garner support for our work to eliminate this totally avoidable human tragedy has been lost.

The millions of people, most especially children, who will lose their lives on the world's roads in future or remain seriously injured, often due to inappropriate speed, deserved better.

Sincerely,

Jeannot Mersch, FEVR president

Copies to Violeta BULC; EU Transport Commissioner, Michael CRAMER, chair of EU Parliament Transport commission, Eva MOLNAR, director of UNECE transport division, Etienne KRUG WHO VIP director and chair of UNRSC, Luciana IORIO, chair of UNECE WP1, Antonio AVENOSO, ETSC executive director and Jeffrey WITTE president of Global Alliance of Road Safety & Road Traffic Victims NGO's.

***FEVR has consultative status (roster) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
UN Road Safety Collaboration Forum Member, ETSC and Global NGO Alliance board member***