



European Federation of Road Traffic Victims

4, rue Jos Felten L-1508 Howald

www.fevr.org

president@fevr.org

Press release

Luxemburg 4th of May 2015

Concerns: Appointment of FIA president Jean Todt as special UN Envoy for Road Safety

Is FIA President right person to front UN's Road Safety Mission?

FEVR was shocked to learn at the end of last week that UN General Secretary has nominated Mr. Jean Todt, president of the FIA – International Automobile Federation - as special UN Envoy for Road Safety.

With this appointment, we believe a wrong signal is being sent to the world, and especially NGO's working for safer roads and justice for road crash victims, which will be detrimental to tackling "the global road safety crisis".

Happening as it did, just 3 days before the start of the 3rd UN Road Safety week, dedicated to saving children's lives, we were extremely disappointed to hear the news.

FEVR has now been left with no alternative, but to formally dissociate itself from this appointment. Mr Todt may well do a good job in his domain, the racing industry, but is for us road victims not the right personality to be a credible neutral 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. But we are against this appointment.

"My FEVR colleagues and I are shocked and saddened by the appointment of a motor sport representative to the position of UN Road Safety Envoy, especially as this was done without consultation with relevant NGOs and stakeholders, following initial denials of such an appointment. This 3rd UN Road Safety week will stay in our memory connected with this appointment and the signal to the Road Danger Reduction Community that will have the result of frustrating our efforts rather than enhancing them." Jeannot MERSCH, FEVR president

Contact: president@fevr.org mobile: (+352) 621 145167

*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*