

## Press release

### "Zero Road Victims" target on Lake Garda:

### local and national authorities are responsible for road safety

A petition started in August 2018 to request relevant authorities to make the main Road Gardesana Orientale SR249 and the roads of the same area safer for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as to guarantee additional free and public accesses to the lake for residents and tourists.

The unfortunate triggering excuse to start the petition was the fatal death of Koen van Keulen, a Dutch boy on holiday in Lazise, who lost his life on last July 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 accidentally falling along the Road Gardesana SR249, just in front of the amusement park "Gardaland". The boy's family decided to undertake an awareness raising campaign together with Annalisa Mancini, daughter of Giuseppe ran over by a car while riding his bike along the same Gardesana Orientale.

**The campaign promoters officially delivered more than 10,300 signatures to the Mayors of Lazise and Castelnuovo del Garda last Monday 17th September 2018,** together with the Italian Association of Road Victims (AIFVS) and the European Federation of Road Victims (FEVR) that powered the initiative at a national and European level. At the same time, the Province of Verona, the Veneto Region, Veneto Strade, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure were informed as co-recipients of the petition.

The facts will be also reported to the Italian President of the Republic, to the Prime Minister, to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, to the Minister of Interior and also to the Presidents of the two Parliament Chambers.

The signature collection took place on the ground by involving residents, tourists, by placing corner points in shops, offices and with the support of individuals who found a way to express something that until that moment they only kept inside.

An actual "**citizens network**" therefore **took off**, people who have joined together for highlighting a common need to walk and cycle without risk: a need that has become increasingly urgent due to the number of tourists and vehicles that populate the wonderful Garda and Verona areas. More than **10,300 people signed**, to ask the **relevant authorities to provide with adequate answers to 3 concrete needs**:

**-make the main road Gardesana orientale SR249 safe for pedestrians and cyclists:** cycle tracks and pedestrian tracks must be well separated from the road through specific concrete barriers (curbs) while new safe sidewalks and bike lanes must be built if missing;

**-make all the other streets connecting residential areas, districts and oldtown safe for pedestrians and cyclists:** these are for example in Lazise via San Martino, via Pastrengo, via Zappo, via del Terminon but there are more everywhere in the whole territory of lake Garda;

**-make the access to safer tracks free and public to everybody willing to reach the new safer cycle and pedestrian tracks along the lakeside:** at the moment only guests in the camping sites may enter and exit apart from some rare public accesses many Km distance one from the other.

**Figures are evident:** between 2015 and 2016 the road crash deaths in the province of Verona increased by 33% (ISTAT datas); the Municipality of Lazise has a record number of tourists per inhabitant of 1338; the vehicles crossing the municipality of Castelnuovo del Garda in 1 hour are 1520; the number of tourists in Lazise is about 3.5 million and about 1 million in Castelnuovo del Garda.

**The delivery of 10,000 signatures** happens symbolically **during the European Mobility Week**, an European Commission initiative that aims to promote the use of alternative means of transport than the private car.

**Residents and tourists**, Italians and foreigners, **have signed the petition** with the precise intention of getting vulnerable road users, like pedestrians and cyclists, safer.

**More than 10,300 people now expect relevant Authorities to take concrete actions and sharing their public answers within October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

*Annalisa Mancini,*

*Family van Keulen*

*supported by European Federation of Road Traffic Victims FEVR*

*and Italian Association Road Victims AIFVS*

