



Associazione Italiana Familiari e Vittime della Strada (AIFVS) aps

www.vittimestrada.org

via A. Tedeschi 82, 00157 Roma; tel. 06 41734624, fax 06 81151888, c.f. 97184320584

From:

Filippo Randi

AIFVS Member of the Board of Directors

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To the attention of:

Mr. Koen Van Wonterghem

FEVR Board Member

Email koen.vanwongerghem@ovk.be

CC to Mrs. Giuseppa Cassaniti Mastrojeni

AIFVS President

Email presidente@vittimestrada.org

23rd May 2021

Letter of Acceptance of my nomination by AIFVS as candidate to the **Board of Directors of FEVR**, and also, at their suggestion, as a candidate for the post of **FEVR President**.

Dear Koen,

I hereby accept my candidacy for the position of Board Member of FEVR and, furthermore, I offer my availability for the role of future President of FEVR, whether the newly elected Board decides to propose my name. Below is my acceptance letter, as requested.

My path at AIFVS and FEVR.

My cooperation with FEVR started at the FEVR General Assembly in Lisbon in 2016, after AIFVS elected me as delegate to represent our association.

I first came into contact with AIFVS in 2013 through the death of my mother, who was killed in the middle of the pedestrian crossing right in front of her house. She was 82 years old, she was very well, independent, and would have lived many more years. She didn't deserve to die in this way! When the crash happened, I was in the United States for a job assignment and suddenly I was reached by a call: "the call that no one ever wants to receive". I packed my bags and went to the airport, then to Italy to our small hometown where I found my mother in hospital in a coma, breathing her last breaths.

The assistance and support our family received from AIFVS was incredibly important. The simple fact of being able to speak with someone who knew what we were going through was a great comfort as it made us realise we were not alone in experiencing such a bereavement.

Importantly, through AIFVS we also received competent legal support, which otherwise we definitely would not have been able to get. The driver was charged with 6 months' imprisonment (not executive, meaning no imprisonment at all) and 5 months of suspension of his driving licence.



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Without AIFVS assisting in the Court, the penalty would have been even lower. The sentiment of helplessness and terrible desolation that one feels in the face of these verdicts is a kind of “double victimization”, the drama of the loss of a relative revives a second time in anger.

Through this experience and through meeting many more bereaved people besides the very dynamic president and guide of AIFVS, Mrs Giuseppa Cassaniti Mastrojeni, I recognized that AIFVS is a very strong campaigning organisation, fighting for justice for road victims, not only for prevention. This was the reason I wanted to join and work with them.

As a board member I have been very active within the organisation I have also been involved in organizing World Day of Remembrance events (the World Day has been observed in Italy since the 1990s and throughout Italy all churches remember road victims on World Day) sharing the World Day material received from FEVR with our many local groups, translating, printing and distributing posters, arranging local events in the main squares of cities, together with other organizations, such as the Red Cross, and giving on those occasions interviews for magazines and local and national television (RAI Tv).

As FEVR delegate, I participated in the General Meetings in Lisbon in 2016, Leeuwarden in 2017 and Barcelona in 2018, where I also gave a presentation about the initiatives of our Association at the School of Journalism of Catalonia, during the pre-assembly day organized by the Spanish association PAT.

Through all those experiences since the death of my mother, I have become a very passionate advocate for the rights of road traffic victims. I want to devote my energy to this cause in future and would be very proud and happy to be able to do this as FEVR’s president. Yes, FEVR has achieved a lot, but as our president Jeannot says: “a lot has been achieved, a lot is yet to be done!”

The voice of road victims to be stronger in Europe.

Our AIFVS association is among the early FEVR member organisations. Founded and led by victims, AIFVS has adhered to FEVR since its foundation, also thanks to the fact that already in the 90s AIFVS has had the opportunity to know directly FEVR’s much respected founder Marcel Haegi.

Likewise, FEVR is a victim organisation, an organisation of “victims for victims” and all FEVR’s work and achievements over the past 30 years are based on that fact and also due to that fact. Because we have direct experience of bereavement and injury, this gives us authenticity, in addition to unique and specific knowledge about what happens after a crash. This experience is recognised and valued by institutions and organisations who work on prevention as it complements their work. FEVR has collaborated as a member with many of them for a long time, for instance with ETSC from the very beginning in the 1990s.



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I want to see the voice of victims become stronger and FEVR could achieve this by improved networking among member associations, building synergy and solidarity, so that our demands, such as those which all our organisations signed up in the Brussels NGO Declaration, have a much better chance to be met. We need to promote a unified European dimension in the areas of prevention, post-crash response and justice for road victims by encouraging politicians and decision-makers to give these issues priority, also by insisting that they honour compliance with relevant European directives and the goal “Zero Victims by 2050”. We have observed that the last Decade of Action’s recommendations have clearly not been accomplished. Even less in certain countries, precisely like Italy, which has one of the worst indicators in the EU. It is becoming every day more important to reinvigorate the next 2021-2030 decade’s goals.

At the same level, I consider it as **very important that FEVR preserves its position within the global institutions**. FEVR has been a longstanding member of the UNRSC (from the very start of UNRSC as one of only two member organisations representing road victims), the Global Alliance (FEVR is a Founder member of GRSP), the UNECE (since 1998), and these relationships should be strengthened by a strong FEVR, led by a strong FEVR Board under the new President.

FEVR and its member associations must continue to campaign to achieve that all relevant institutions in all EU countries adopt a unified approach for an **overall change of transportation policy aimed at saving lives**, such as (in brief):

- give priority to “sustainable mobility”;
- decrease speed limits (e.g. 30km/h in all EU cities, introduce limits on highways where absent) and reinforce speed controls;
- design roads with consideration for pedestrians, cyclists and any public space needs (a particularly evident gap in certain EU countries in the South);
- increase investment in public transportation, meaning consequently fewer private car usage.

I am also particularly sensitive regarding the **field of Justice** and suggest below some practical areas to develop together, as AIFVS has already indicated to President Jeannot Mersch who took part in our AIFVS General Assembly in December 2020, such as:

- ensure procedural equality between victim and accused: victim has not less rights;
- extend insurance coverage to all “light” means of transport (e.g. e-bike, e-scooter), and to all road crashes, whatever the cause is;
- create a network of legal support in EU countries, with lawyers and consultants expert in road traffic law and road crashes and known and trusted by member associations, offering honest pre-agreed prices, to help victims and family members in crashes occurring abroad;
- promote that all EU countries recognize that the crash occurring abroad must be compensated by the State where it occurred, using the parameters of the State where consequences are borne;



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- propose laws that increase the penalties for those who drive while drunk or under the influence of drugs (e.g. Italian "road homicide" law n. 41/2016 greatly sponsored by the AIFVS).

About me.

I am 53 years old, married to Stefania, we have a 15-year old son Gian Luca.

I studied Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Bologna and recently obtained an Executive-MBA (Master in Business Administration) degree from 'Politecnico' University of Milano.

In my profession, I am a Corporate Services Manager with more than twenty years' experience in a multinational company. I have started projects up in different countries and in complex environments, leading multicultural teams. Due to this I am therefore very familiar in planning, delivering, following up on actions, in the same way I am at ease in coordinating others. I can use a structured approach to problem solving and effective decision making.

I have lived and worked on various continents and am able to communicate fluently, in addition to Italian, in English, Spanish and Portuguese. I speak some French. I have witnessed and been also told that speaking several languages is a very good quality for a FEVR President, and also that a good command of English is essential.

In my day to day activity I make professional use of IT programmes, such as excel, power point presentations, videoconferencing platforms, everything that is essential to manage FEVR in a modern and efficient way. It will be also essential to have motivated members in the Board, cooperative and fair towards others, as well as responsive and smart in the use of IT tools.

I will ensure to always have the required time for FEVR activities, some face to face meetings a year, in addition to the use of virtual conferences and other e-media. I will reduce my activities at AIFVS in favour of FEVR and I am ready to sacrifice part of my free time in the evenings and at weekends which, until now, I have dedicated to my other passions like sport and music.

I would be honoured to offer all of my skills for achieving, through FEVR, concrete and positive results in all the areas of road victim, road death and injury treatment that FEVR and FEVR member associations have for so long identified, highlighted and tirelessly campaigned for.

Sincerely,

Filippo Randi

"Never resign yourself to considering the high number of road victims as a fatal and inevitable toll to be paid to progress" (Pope John Paul II, message to AIFVS)