

## **Report from Antoinette Esposito-Cano, of Esperanza, the South of France NGO supporting road victims and working against road violence, World Day 2007**

- We have called - through press, radio and mailings- on the population to observe Remembrance Day by lighting their houses, gardens and balconies (with candles or electric lights) during Remembrance Day, and especially between 6pm and 8pm. Photos of these actions will be posted on the special website, which is under construction and will be inaugurated with a gallery of these actions.
- We contacted European and French soccer teams to promote the idea of a one-minute silence before the football games to be played on Sunday. We have obtained the support and all relevant contacts for this action from the UEFA management. Unfortunately, due to games for EURO 2008, this action could not be implemented among the big European teams since no league matches will take place next weekend. Nevertheless, through the French Football Federation, we have communicated to all football clubs (even local and non-professional) to observe this one-minute silence for games planned for Sunday. During this minute silence, the public will switch on the screen of their cell phones to symbolize the light of hope. We suggested this idea to Mexico to see if it could be implemented there - it could be achieved there for a big match on Sunday to be played in the Azteca Stadium, one of the biggest in Mexico and Latin America.
- We have asked the municipality of our native city (Port-Saint-Louis du Rhone) to illuminate all public buildings, which will be done.
- We have participated in a radio programme to call for major public awareness - and not indifference - towards road traffic victims, injured victims and their families, and to inform French people of all private and NGOs' actions all around the world. We promoted the partnership initiatives between NGOs in Europe and with the rest of the world. This radio programme will be broadcast on Saturday morning.
- We have organized the video-conference for the symbolic transfer of light from Italy to Mexico. The transfer will be done in two steps: first the video-conference between France and Italy, to show the solidarity and common efforts within Europe, secondly between Italy, on behalf of FEVR and Europe, to Mexico on behalf of America and symbolically the rest of the world. I will do the transfer from home, in front of a window with candles, to illustrate the individual and intimate aspect of this action, called in France personal willingness to have things changed, while Marcello will be online with me (video) from the Capitole, Rome's city hall. After the sharing of light within Europe, Italy will transfer to Mexico.

In Mexico, it will be received at the Public Department of Health, with representatives of ten Mexican road victim organizations. They will light many candles. NGOs and Public Health Department are going to leave hundreds of white balloons at Paseo de la Reforma, one of the biggest avenues of Mexico City. Additionally, they will speak on the radio programme Hora Nacional, transmitted on Sunday from 10 -11 pm about this remembrance. This programme goes to every single radio station in the country, so they expect to reach many people.

A big soccer match at Azteca stadium will begin with a one-minute silence. Finally, during two weeks there will be conferences in all universities in Mexico City, with a lit candle transferred from one university to the next as the Symbol of Remembrance Day, until the day of the video-conference.