On this World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, my thoughts go to the more than 1.25 million people who lost their lives on the world’s roads this year, the tens of millions who were severely injured and their families and loved ones.

Most of them were young, full of life and aspirations. All had in common that they were on their way to somewhere and never arrived due to a road traffic crash that could have been prevented.

“Roads have stories” is the theme of this year’s World Day of Remembrance, and the accounts they tell are of lives changed forever.

We should remember these tragedies, but then turn them into action.

My wish is that in the years ahead, these stories will be about safer infrastructure and vehicles, stronger laws and enforcement, and improved emergency care...

about children who arrive safely to school and their parents safely to work...

about people returning from holidays and visits to families and friends unharmed, because we have put in place the lifesaving measures needed to allow for safer journeys.

Stronger leadership is needed on all of these fronts to ensure that this becomes a reality.

My colleagues and I wish you a successful World Day of Remembrance.