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International Parental Child Abduction: extracts from the press conference by Roberta ANGELILLI (ALDE, IT) Viviane REDING, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

Type: News Reference: 82096 Duration: 00:03:09 Lieu: European Parliament , Strasbourg, Press Conference room
End production: 13/12/2011 First transmission: 13/12/2011

The number of binational marriages in the EU is constantly growing. When such a marriage breaks down the ex-partners often decide to return to their country of origin. If a couple has a common child the situation can become very complicated. Frequently, once parents have separated, the parent who does not have custody of the child(ren) abducts them or refuses to send them back following an access visit. Another scenario is even more common: children are removed or retained by their primary carer, but without the permission of the other parent. This is in breach of the legal rights of the other parent and often leads to court proceedings. The main responsibility of the European Parliament Mediator for International Parental Child Abduction is to assist the parents in finding the best solution for the well-being of their child. Therefore, Mediator's principal goal and duty is to ensure the protection of the children's rights in any dispute involving their parents, by helping the parents themselves to achieve a negotiated solution in the exclusive interest of their child(ren).

Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Arrival of the speakers	00:00:08
00:00:13	General view	00:00:04
00:00:17	Soundbite by Roberta Angelilli, member of the European Parliament (ALDE, IT) (In ITALIAN) saying that: We had 98 requests for which we have opened d a particular case file and the conflicts was almost all nationalities of the European Union, it is manly the father who turned to us, in 76% of the cases, the father turned to us.	00:00:29
00:00:46	Cutaway	00:00:04
00:00:50	Soundbite by Roberta Angelilli, (In ITALIAN) saying that: Obviously we are dealing with a procedure which is attempting to avoid opening conflicts. On several occasions in the European Parliament, we have spoken along this line, in other words to extend where it is possible to try to introduce mediation in cases of conflicts concerning families, parents and children.	00:00:34

00:01:24	Cutaway	00:00:02
00:01:26	Soundbite by Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship (In ENGLISH) saying that: The courts in the EU member states to which the child has been abducted shall no refuse an order to return the child to the member states of origin. Our analysis has shown that the regulation works well; of course it does not solve 100% of the problems and that are the problems that our mediator has to come in.	00:00:28
00:01:54	Cutaway	00:00:04
00:01:58	Soundbite by Viviane Reding (In ENGLISH) saying that: For EU citizens married to somebody who come from a third country, the Hague Convention also is of outmost importance. It applies to families where one parent comes from a third country; all EU members are members of the convention so that is an instrument which is very important.	00:00:30
00:02:28	Soundbite by Viviane Reding (In ENGLISH) saying that: The objective really is that less and less children are abducted and more and more questions are solved in a normal way; that is also why we have the new mediation directive for family affairs so that when there is a conflict, couples do not need to go to the court but this can be solved in the mediation between the parents.	00:00:30
00:02:58	Speakers leaving the press room	00:00:11
00:03:09	End	00:00:00

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