As pointed out in its answer to written question E-003810/2018, the Commission is aware of cases concerning EU citizens involved in proceedings before Norwegian authorities, where children have been removed from parental care.

Norway is not a Member State of the European Union. In cases where the right to family life or the rights of the children involved are allegedly violated by the Norwegian child welfare services, it is for Norway, including its judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with national legislation, the Norwegian constitution, and international human rights obligations. The parents concerned can seek redress at the national level through the competent national authorities, such as through an ombudsman\(^1\) or through the courts and at the European Court of Human Rights, once they have exhausted domestic remedies.

Norway has ratified the United Nations (UN) Convention on the rights of the child. The standards of the Convention guide child protection interventions, where child protection authorities are required to act in the best interests of the child.

With regards to cross-border issues, Norway ratified in 2016 the 1996 Hague Convention on Child Protection to which all EU Member States are Contracting Parties\(^2\). After the ratification, guidelines for process child welfare cases have been issued by Norwegian authorities following several cases involving foreign nationals including from EU Member States\(^3\).

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