

**Question for written answer E-008646/2011
to the Council**

Rule 117

Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Marco Scurria (PPE), Gianni Pittella (S&D), Carlo Casini (PPE), Mario Mauro (PPE), Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE), Clemente Mastella (PPE), Gabriele Albertini (PPE), Sonia Alfano (ALDE), Aldo Patriciello (PPE), Mara Bizzotto (EFD), Antonello Antinoro (PPE), Licia Ronzulli (PPE), Claudio Morganti (EFD), Vincenzo Iovine (ALDE), Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE), Lara Comi (PPE), Antonio Cancian (PPE), Giommara Uggias (ALDE), Giovanni La Via (PPE), Amalia Sartori (PPE), Paolo Bartolozzi (PPE), Cristiana Muscardini (PPE), Erminia Mazzoni (PPE), Crescenzo Rivellini (PPE), Raffaele Baldassarre (PPE), Andrea Zaroni (ALDE), Oreste Rossi (EFD), Silvia Costa (S&D) and Elisabetta Gardini (PPE)

Subject: Case of international abduction in Tunisia

In the summer of 2008 an Italian woman had a brief relationship with a Tunisian man, who had been an illegal immigrant in Italy since 2004.

From this relationship a little girl was born, but the relationship between the two parents had already begun to deteriorate during the woman's pregnancy, when she began to notice serious abnormalities in her partner's behaviour.

The Tunisian-born man formally acknowledged his paternity of the child by giving it his surname and thus obtaining a residence permit in Italy.

The relationship had by then become unbearable and the couple separated once and for all. In order to regulate their relationship with the child, both parents went to the juvenile court which, in the first instance, granted the mother custody of the child and ruled that the father could exercise his visiting rights only in the presence of the mother. Subsequently, the same court granted the father the right to spend two nights a week and two alternate Sundays alone with the little girl.

During one of his customary outings with the child, the father then abducted her and took her to Tunisia. Since then the mother has not seen her daughter.

Since Tunisia is not a signatory to the Hague Convention, the mother has been unable to activate the relevant mechanism to secure the prompt return of the abducted child; she has thus sought and received the diplomatic protection of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has filed a complaint for child abduction.

In the light of the above, can the Council say:

1. what measures it can take to ensure the return of the abducted child;
2. what action it can take to facilitate the diplomatic cooperation that is necessary to resolve this case;
3. whether it agrees that judicial cooperation, with particular emphasis on international child abduction, can be a topic for discussion in the review of the Neighbourhood Policy with Tunisia?