

**Question for written answer E-009402/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Case of mistreatment of a child by police officers

In Cittadella, province of Padua, a 10-year-old child was pulled and dragged forcefully by some police officers who had entered his school during school hours and removed him from class. All this was done to execute a custody order, issued by a court, to give the father sole custody of the child. The episode was filmed on a mobile phone by the child's aunt and was broadcast by a major Italian TV programme. The images then went viral on the internet, causing indignation and outrage among Italians. Despite the child's call for help from his mother and his refusal to follow the police officers, the latter behaved brutally and dragged the child to the police car ignoring his pleas for help. According to psychologists, after this incident the child could remain traumatised for life.

Since the case was exposed, the Italian Government and the police chief have apologised for what happened, thereby admitting their mistake in taking such action.

Given the above facts, can the Commission say:

1. whether this is a violation of children's rights as expressly enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;
2. what urgent action, with a view to obtaining further information and imposing penalties, does the EU intend to take with regard to such a serious matter?