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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.9.2026)

The Commission is not aware of the individual case referred to in the question.

Relationships between an EU Member State and a third country that are both parties to the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention¹ are governed by that Convention, not by EU law. Italy and Russia are both Contracting Parties to this Convention, which seeks to protect children from wrongful removal and retention across borders by securing their prompt return and ensuring the protection of rights of access. The application of the Convention is monitored by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), not the Commission.

EU citizens can ask for assistance from their Central Authority responsible for the application of the Hague 1980 Child Abduction Convention. In Italy, the Ministry of Justice acts as the Central Authority².

¹ The Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

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