



Summary

Brussels has set progression in the normalisation of relations between Pristina and Belgrade as a condition for the granting of an opening date of Serbia's accession negotiations to the EU, but it was reported by Vecer (SI, 7/2) that President Nikolić had said "*the last thing that I would do, for as long as I live, would be to agree to or accept Kosovo as an independent state*" adding "*if the Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga insists on Kosovo's independence, the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue will not be moving in the right direction*" (focus-fen.net, BG, 7/2).

- Vecer, SI, 7/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130207/mi/item_147986079.pdf
- focus-fen.net, BG, 7/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n298786>

The foreign ministers of Croatia and Slovenia Vesna Pusić and Karl Erjavec announced on Wednesday that they had found a solution to the issue of Ljubljanska Bank (dnevnik.bg, BG, 7/6). After more than six hours the two ministers agreed on a solution, but did not discuss it. Erjavec is likely to persuade Parliament to a two-thirds majority required for ratification of the Accession Treaty of Croatia according to Delo (SI, 7/2). Pusić said that the solution "*brought no harm to anyone but benefitted both sides*" (Dnevnik, SI, 7/2).

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 7/6, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/02/07/1998333_vunshnite_ministri_na_slovenia_i_hurvatiia_zaiaviha/?ref=rs
- Delo, SI, 7/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130207/mi/item_147986077.pdf
- Dnevnik, SI, 7/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130207/mi/item_147986062.pdf

Greek daily Eleftherotypia (7/2) reported that Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan again stated that his country is looking for alternatives as they can no longer wait for the EU to accept them and that the Commission's unit for Turkey, the Office of Commissioner Štefan Füle, MEPs and veteran diplomats in the team of EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, are watching the developments on this issue with concern. According to Phileleftheros, (CY, 7/2) however, unfortunately, they are not wondering whether they should blame themselves for the current impasse, together with Ankara and EU member states. Commissioner Füle said that the Commission is monitoring the compliance demonstrated by Turkey in respecting human rights and is helping it implement the relevant reforms.

- Eleftherotypia, EL, 7/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130207/mi/item_147982634.pdf
- Phileleftheros, CY, 7/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130207/mi/item_147975360.pdf

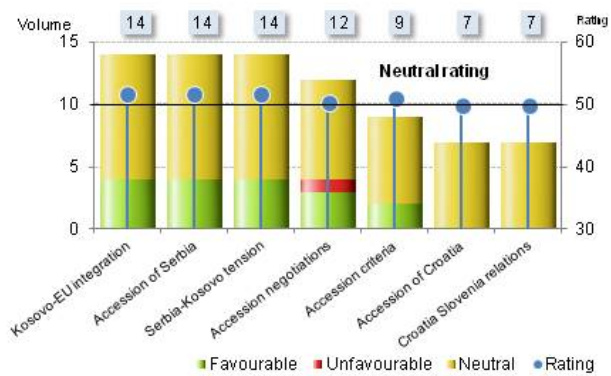
Key Quotes

The former Chancellor published research showing the 15 countries that have joined the EU since 1995 had to wait on average nearly a decade after submitting their initial applications. The Better Together research showed the length of time for new countries to join the EU has varied from three years for Finland to 14 years for Cyprus. Among the other nations that faced a lengthy accession process were Romania (12-and-a-half years), Bulgaria (12 years) and Poland and Hungary, who each had to wait a decade (Telegraph, UK, 8/2) <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/9856083/Alistair-Darling-Independent-Scotland-faces-nine-year-wait-to-join-EU.html>

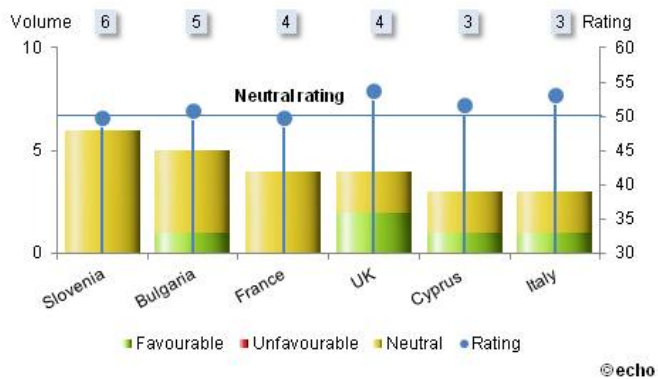
With respect to Greece, Poposki noted that the countries' political leaderships need to focus on building trust, sincere communication and on breaking down stereotypes. "*We want to have an intensive and open political dialogue on all issues in the spirit of mutual respect,*" Poposki said underlying that Macedonia's strategic interest is to build exceptional relations with all of its neighbours (Focus News, Bulgaria, 8/2) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n298878>

Charts

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Volume	29 items
Rating	51.4
Favourable %	27.6%
Unfavourable %	3.4%
Neutral %	69%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	14
Atifete Jahjaga (President, Kosovo)	13
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	12
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	8
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	7
Karl Erjavec (Foreign Minister, Slovenia)	7

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