



Summary

Analysts note that the political crisis that has erupted in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) has overshadowed all developments in the country and if no solution is found the European Commission may proceed to remove the recommendation to the European Council to open accession negotiations according to [kerdos.gr](http://www.kerdos.gr), (EL, 18/2). After Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle refused to visit the fYRoM over the political crisis, the Commission commented that patience should have a limit. According to the EC sources, the fYRoM is implementing the initial criteria set in the spring report, but the absence of the opposition in parliament is a factor, which may bring a negative report. ([focus-fen.net](http://www.focus-fen.net), BG, 19/2). Bulgarian MEP Andrey Kovachev said during a debate that the fYRoM should amend its constitution which he pointed enumerated minorities in the country, before joining the EU. *“That is inadmissible,”* Mr Kovachev stated. He said 12,000 citizens of the fYRoM had applied for Bulgarian citizenship over the last 20 years because of their Bulgarian origin. *“We do not want to impede the fYRoM’s euro-integration; on the contrary, Bulgaria should help. But we will not allow anti-Bulgarian talk.”* (Monitor, BG, 19/2).

- [kerdos.gr](http://www.kerdos.gr), EL, 18/2, <http://www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1877244&nt=103>
- [focus-fen.net](http://www.focus-fen.net), BG, 19/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299841>
- Monitor, BG, 19/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130219/mi/item_149072124.pdf

In Serbia the Prime Minister Ivica Dačić announced that “the Serbian institutions in Kosovo would not be withdrawn until there was clear agreement on what they would be replaced by”, Kosovar news edition KS Reporter informed. He also went to to say that the situation in Kosovo was hard and *“it is dangerous to live in a world of parallel systems – each working on its own, something the Albanians and the Serbs should think about, too”* ([focus-fen.net](http://www.focus-fen.net), BG, 18/2). Focus news reported President Barroso comment *“2013 will be crucial for EU-Kosovo relations, as it could see a decision on opening negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Prime Minister Thaçi has an opportunity on his hands to make a big step to the next stage on Kosovo’s European path”* (Focus News, Bulgaria, 20/2)

- [focus-fen.net](http://www.focus-fen.net), BG, 18/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299722>
- focus news, BG, 20/2, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1751471>

Concerning Croatia Presse-Austria (AT, 19/2) reported that Slovenia no longer plans to prevent Croatian EU accession and that the new Slovenian Prime Minister, Janez Janša, is planning to meet with his Croatian counterpart Zoran Milanović on March 10 in order to finally resolve the conflict. Also on Croatia, Delo reported that discussions in the European Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs had sounded an upbeat note concerning the 10 Brussels requirements. MEP, Doris Pack, from the German CDU party, expressed satisfaction at the positive tone of Slovenian members of the committee in relation to the ratification and efforts to address the Ljubljana Bank issue (Delo, SI, 19/2)

- Presse-Austria, AT, 19/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130219/mi/item_149074983.pdf
- Delo, SI, 19/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130219/mi/item_149069773.pdf

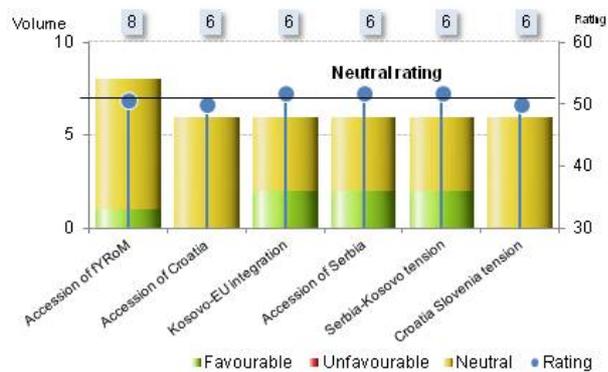
Key Quotes

Another round of the EU-sponsored Kosovo dialogue is taking place in Brussels on Thursday. The participants will continue their talks “for as long as they can”, Macedonian MIA news agency informs (Focus News, Bulgaria, 20/2) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299944>

Crucial week for Serbia (Propeller.hu, Hungary, 20/2) <http://propeller.hu/naqvvilag/2627765-szerbia-sorsdonto-hete>

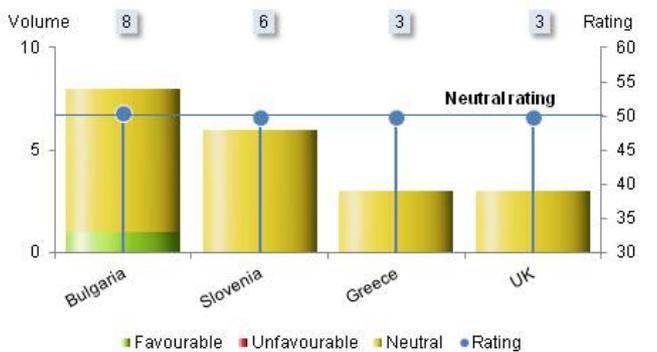
Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



©echo

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



©echo

ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	26 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	11.5%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	88.5%

©echo

ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
Libor Rouček (MEP, Rapporteur for Croatia)	3
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	2
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Nikola Gruevski (President, FYRoM)	2
Boyko Borisov (Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	2
Theodore Karaoglou (Minister Macedonia-Thrace, Greece)	2
Andrey Kovachev (Bulgarian MEP)	2

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.