

Summary

Following the fifth round of talks between Kosovo premier Hashim Thaçi and the Serbian prime minister Ivica Dačić after which Thaçi told journalists that no agreement had been reached on Serbian "parallel structures" in northern Kosovo, the European Union now is now calling for "concrete results" if Serbia and Kosovo want get closer to the twenty-seven at the EU summit in June according to Echos, (FR, 21/2). The Economist online (UK, 22/2) reported "While Mr Dačić was closeted with Mr Thaçi in Brussels, Mr Vučić was in Berlin lobbying the Germans to fix a date for EU negotiations. Mr Vučić is riding high in the polls. If Mr Dačić can be blamed for weakness on Kosovo and links to organised crime, and if Serbia gets its EU date, Mr Vučić has every incentive to force an early election.

- Echos, FR, 21/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130221/mi/item_149243847.pdf
- Economist, UK, 22/2, <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21572247-serbian-prime-minister-under-pressure-all-sides-trouble-ahead?fsrc=rss|eur>

In the second feature in two days on the future of Kosovo, the BBC's World Tonight analysed the plight of Serbs living in Kosovo, some of whom believe that they may be sacrificed by the Belgrade government as a means of appeasing the EU, which will not grant membership without a conciliatory attitude to Pristina. It contained a report from the divided town of Mitrovica, interviewing Serb leaders and local people on the political aspects of the country's divisions and the growing violence in the area (BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 20/2)

- BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 20/2 (no link available)

Speaking about accession negotiation the Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle commented that there is a possibility of the FYRoM and Serbia starting their accession negotiations in 2013, a perspective that depends entirely on the EU member states. He also said that it is extremely important to continue accession negotiations with Turkey. The Irish presidency could constitute a turning point, according to Mr Füle, who stresses that a possible accession will not have time limitations but will depend solely on the progress on individual chapters. Mr Füle also commented that the integration processes have not slowed down since EU enlargement and the deepening of the integration are the basic axes of the EU policies that will continue to be observed despite the fiscal crisis (news.in.gr, EL, 21/2).

- news.in.gr, EL, 21/2, <http://news.in.gr/world/article/?aid=1231236168>

Utrinski Vesnik noted that the resignation of the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Byoko Borisov, leaves a question mark over the initiative to break the ice in the ties between Skopje and Sofia, although, given the current ratings of the political parties in Bulgaria, it is not impossible for the outgoing prime minister to be re-elected and take part in the first intergovernmental meeting with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (focus-fen.net, BG, 21/2).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 21/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300025>

According to Bild Zeitung (21/2) the European Commission has dissociated itself from European Commissioner Günther Oettinger's criticism of the EU's hesitation regarding Turkey's accession to the EU. A spokesperson for the European Commission said his remarks have been noted, adding that "this is his personal opinion, not that of the European Commission." Mr Oettinger had said that he expects that at some point in the future the German Chancellor will get down on her knees and beg Turkey to join the EU. Economist.com (UK, 22/2) suggests that whilst many Turks have given up, progress towards the EU inches forward and quotes Turkey's foreign minister, Ahmet Davutoglu "No force can tear us away from Europe."

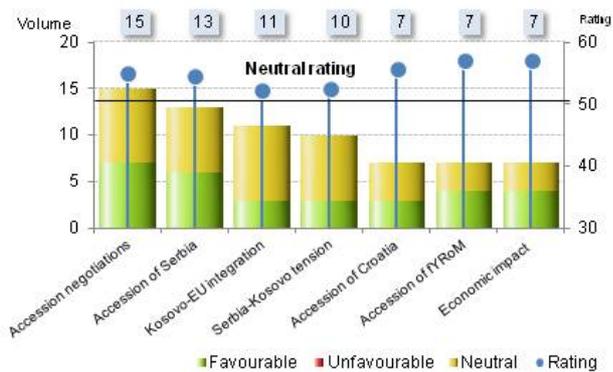
- Bild Zeitung, DE, 21/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130221/mi/item_149255304.pdf
- Economist.com, UK, 22/2, <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21572244-many-turks-have-given-up-progress-towards-eu-inches-forward-tiny-thaw>

Key Quotes

Romanian ambassador Ion Jinga: "There is an increasing sense among the Romanians here that they are being discriminated and treated as second-class EU citizens. In extreme cases, inflammatory rhetoric could even lead to acts of racially aggravated assaults against them"
(Focus News, Bulgaria, 22/2) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300104>

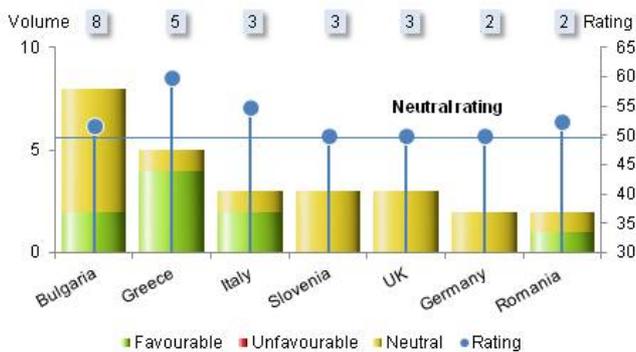
Charts

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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	29 items
Rating	53.4
Favourable %	37.9%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	62.1%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	9
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	9
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	7
Nikola Gruevski (President FYRoM)	3
Boyko Borisov (former Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	3

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