

Summary

Responding to a question submitted by MEP Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D), Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said that it is up to the two community leaders in Cyprus to decide how to proceed with the Cyprus talks. The MEP had raised the issue of statements by Turkey's EU negotiator Bagis, in which he proposed five-partite negotiations on the Cyprus talks but without the Republic of Cyprus. The Commissioner also reiterated the October Commission statement stressing the need to restart the Cyprus talks (Phileleftheros, CY, 1/3).

- Phileleftheros, CY, 1/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130301/mi/item_150021690.pdf

According to figaro online (FR, 1/3) Iceland's president Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson on his visit to Paris, is not pushing for membership of the EU. Forced in 2008 to ask the IMF for help, today Iceland is the exception to the rule in a crisis-ridden Europe. The country began European Union accession negotiations in 2011 and since then twenty seven chapters have been opened out of the required 33 with eleven being closed. The most sensitive remain to be negotiated, in particular the fishing chapter. The government has suspended negotiations until elections in April. Whether European accession will be pursued will depend on the result of the elections.

- lefigaro.fr, FR, 1/3, <http://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/2013/02/28/20002-20130228ARTFIG00700-l-islande-relevee-de-la-crise-tourne-le-dos-a-l-euro.php>

Dnevnik (BG, 1/3) reported that Commissioner Štefan Füle, former European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek and European Parliament rapporteur for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM), Richard Howitt, said the purpose of their visit to the fYRoM was to seek ways to overcome the political crisis. If attempts to resolve the crisis are unsuccessful, the Commissioner will clearly let it be known that this would have negative consequences for the Spring European Commission report. Sources added that just how seriously Brussels is taking the situation can be judged by the fact that Commissioner Füle has refused all activities during these two days to be able to focus on the political crisis in the fYRoM.

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 1/3, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshiravane/2013/03/01/2013202_brjuksel_se_opitva_da_reshi_politicheskata_kriza_v/?ref=rss

In the UK UKIP leader Nick Farage hailed his party's "massive surge" blaming the Conservatives bad showing on Mr Cameron, who is "talking about gay marriage, wind turbines, unlimited immigration from India. He wants Turkey to join the European Union. The Conservatives' problems are not because of UKIP, it's because of their leader". (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 1/3).

- UK news.yahoo.com, UK, 1/3, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/eastleigh-election-lib-dems-triumph-022352262.html>

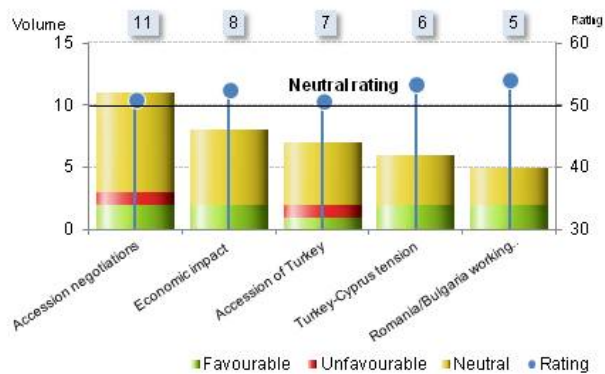
Key Quotes

The Maribor-based daily Večer does not share President Borut Pahor's optimism about Slovenia ratifying the Croatian EU Accession Treaty, noting in Monday's commentary that domestic squabbles may yet throw a spanner in the works ([sta.si](http://www.sta.si), Slovenia, 4/3) <http://www.sta.si/vest.php?s=a&id=1860748>

Although Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union (EU) in 2007, many of its members feel that their efforts to combat corruption and organised crime are not sufficient yet (ABC.es, Spain, 4/3) <http://www.abc.es/internacional/20130304/rc-alemania-vetara-bulgaria-rumania-201303040212.html>

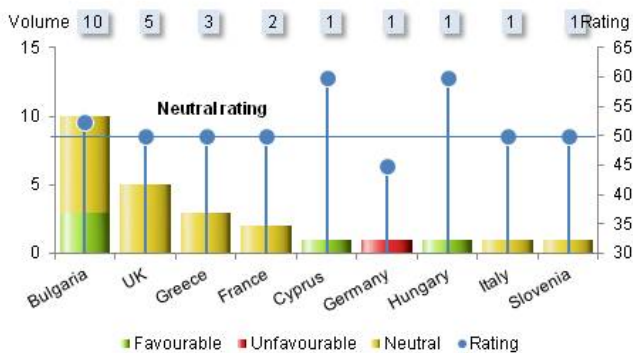
Charts

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



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



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

Volume	25 items
Rating	51.6
Favourable %	20%
Unfavourable %	4%
Neutral %	76%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey)	3

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