



Summary

EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton was present during the two-and-a-half hour meeting between the Serbian and Kosovo-Albanian leadership. The main issue on the agenda was the founding of Serbian municipalities in Kosovo. However, the sixth round of negotiations did not bear fruit, so the next meeting was set for 20 March (Rizospastis, EL, 5/3). Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said that there was no agreement on handing executive power authorities to the community of the Serbian municipalities but there was an agreement on the withdrawal of the Serbian security structures from North Kosovo, according to the Serbian Blic daily. *"The issue about the association of the municipalities with predominating Serbian population was discussed but there is no agreement on endowing them with executive or legislative authorities"* Thaçi commented (focus-fen.net, BG, 5/3).

- Rizospastis, EL, 5/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130305/mi/item_150358922.pdf
- focus-fen.net, BG, 5/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300962>

In Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, the First Deputy Prime Minister, stated that after receiving an EU talks date, it would be highly probable that Serbia would conduct early parliamentary elections or to reshuffle the cabinet. With regard to the toxic milk scandal, Vučić noted that at least four people involved in it would be replaced (focus-fen.net, BG, 5/3).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 5/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300980>

Naftemporiki commented positively on the official meeting between Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey. More specifically, the newspaper stated that both sides sent a message of good neighbourliness with closer economic cooperation and growth for the two countries. During the meeting of the High Council of Cooperation under the Presidency of Mr Samaras and Mr Erdoğan, some 25 agreements were signed between Greece and Turkey. In joint statements about the issue of the EEZ, Mr Erdoğan stated that they agreed that the issue should be solved to the benefit of both countries, while Mr Samaras refused to comment. The Greek Prime Minister highlighted that the European future of Turkey is a solid point of reference (Naftemporiki, EL, 5/3)

- Naftemporiki, EL, 5/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130305/mi/item_150347949.pdf

US Ambassador to Slovenia Joseph Mussomeli said Monday that should efforts to form a new government in Slovenia succeed, it will face the same crucial tasks as the present one - including ensuring the timely ratification of Croatia's EU accession and maintaining momentum on much-needed economic reform (sta.si, SI, 4/3). Alenka Bratušek said that as Prime Minister she will do everything that the Croatian accession treaty is ratified in time (Delo, SI, 5/3). However Kerdos warned that Croatia joining the EU will have limited benefits unless it improves its labour market and removes obstacles to investment (kerdos.gr, EL, 5/3)

- sta.si, SI, 4/3, <http://www.sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1861076>
- Delo, SI, 5/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130305/mi/item_150360062.pdf
- kerdos.gr, EL, 5/3, <http://www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1885190&nt=103>

"Germany's veto against Bulgaria's and Romania's accession to Schengen is populist and deceitful," reads a statement by Hannes Swoboda, President of the group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats at the European Parliament. He made this statement on the eve of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, which is to meet at the end of the week. A few days ago German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich warned that if Bulgaria and Romania insisted upon a vote on their Schengen accession during the upcoming Justice and Home Affairs European Council, he would veto the request (Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 5/3)

- Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 5/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130305/mi/item_150339134.pdf

Key Quotes

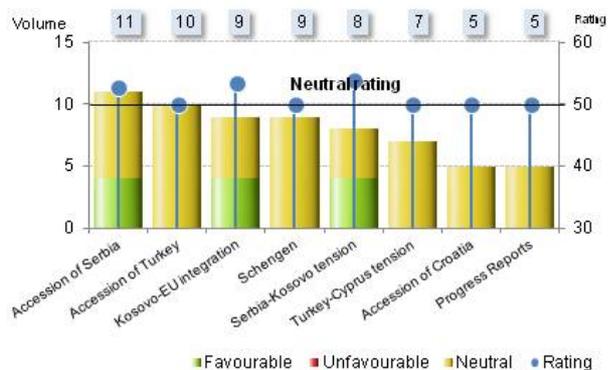
Peers want more vetting of EU applicant states. *"Enlargement fatigue (in the EU) and accession fatigue (in aspirant countries) could seriously threaten the future of the enlargement agenda,"* the peers said (BBC, UK, 6/3) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21673549>

UK Lords extol benefits of EU enlargement. Lord Boswell, chairman of the committee, said: *"EU enlargement provides benefits for both existing and new member states. However, with the current economic difficulties in Europe, it has become less of a priority. It is important that the EU does not lose sight of the benefits enlargement can bring. The UK, for example, aims to export its way out of recession and a larger single market can only help that effort."* (Public Service Europe, UK, 6/3) <http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3172/uk-lords-extol-benefits-of-eu-enlargement#ixzz2Mjrl8dBB>

Finland says it will block Romanian and Bulgarian bids to join the passport-free Schengen travel zone ahead of a meeting of EU Interior ministers on Thursday, Finnish news edition Yle writes. Both government and parliament said the two countries are too corrupt and fail to live up to the rule of law, a precondition for accession (Focus News, Bulgaria, 6/3) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301045>

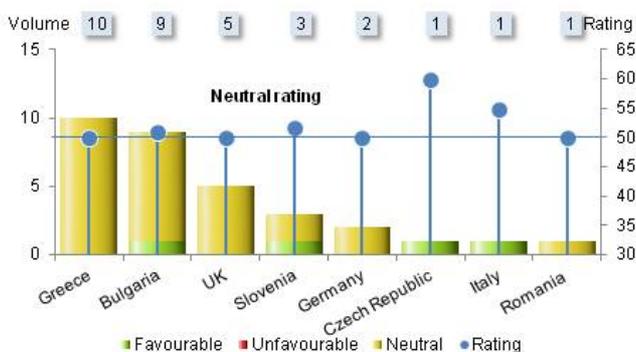
Charts

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	32 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	12.5%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	87.5%

©echo

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	8
Antonis Samaras (Prime Minister, Greece)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	6
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Hans-Peter Friedrich (Interior Minister, Germany)	6

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