



Summary

Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić and State Secretary in the office of the Slovenian prime minister Tone Kajzer have initialled a memorandum on the Ljubljanska banka savings deposits (sta.si, SI, 7/3). This means Croatia and Slovenia have reached a deal on a 20-year-old bank dispute which should allow Croatia to join the European Union on July 1, as scheduled. Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanović told a cabinet session broadcast on the Internet, *"The text of the memorandum has been agreed and I and the Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša will sign it on Monday"* (it.notizie.yahoo.com, IT, 7/3). This should allow Slovenia to ratify Croatia's EU accession treaty within a month continued sta.s (SI, 7/3). The World Bank has said it will continue to support the Croatian Government in the battle for fiscal consolidation and will help the authorities to maximise the benefits of the country's accession to the European Union, which is scheduled for July 1 (express.gr, EL, 7/3).

- sta.si, SI, 7/3, <http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1862077>
- it.notizie.yahoo.com, IT, 7/3, <http://it.notizie.yahoo.com/croazia-e-slovenia-trovano-accordo-che-sblocca-ingresso-095457344.html>
- sta.si, SI, 7/3, <http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1862151>
- express.gr, EL, 7/3, http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/688629oz_20130307688629.php3

Sta.si reported that the Koper-based daily Primorske novice hails the Slovenia-Croatia agreement on the Ljubljanska Bank savings deposits, but also regrets that due to issues it had with Croatia, Slovenia has not had the time to reflect on development opportunities and the risks of Croatia's membership of the EU (SI, 8/3).

- sta.si, SI, 8/3, <http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1862508>

'Turkey's EU accession seems to be further away than ever at the moment' Dutch newspaper Trouw writes following an interview with Ersin Ercin, the Turkish ambassador to Brazil and Surinam who said *"The EU is not in our interest anymore. Why would we want to get on board a sinking ship, which tells us what to do?"* Turkey's international focus is now on less traditional trading partners like Latin American countries (Trouw, NE, 7/3). Turkey's EU Minister Egemen Bağış however said that he is hopeful about the opening of chapter 22 *"Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments"* the draft of which was sent unofficially to the European Union Commission. *"We are now waiting for the member countries to evaluate it"* said Bağış and added: *"After we get the opinions of the member countries, we will deliver the draft officially to the commission on Friday and the procedure will start"* (hri.org, EL, 6/3).

- Trouw, NE, 7/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130307/mi/item_150526059.pdf
- hri.org, EL, 6/3, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-03-06.tcpr.htm>

Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi announced that the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Catherine Ashton would soon visit Kosovo in order to assist with the negotiation process with Belgrade, KS Reporter informed. Thaçi also noted Ms Ashton's personal contribution to the progress marked in the normalisation of the relations with Serbia (focus-fen.net, BG, 7/3).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 7/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301140>

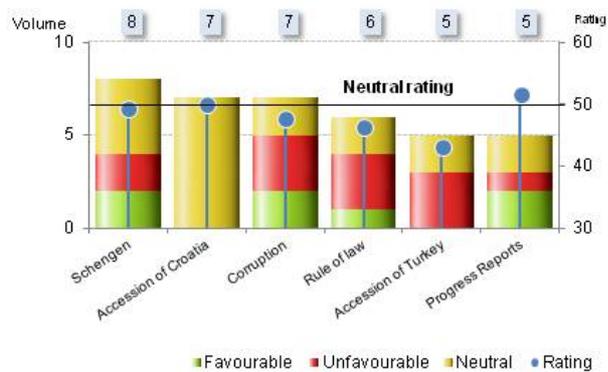
Key Quotes

Ivica Dacic tells Serbs they were lied to over Kosovo. He said: *"For ten years, Kosovo was taboo. No-one could officially tell the truth. Tales were told; lies were told that Kosovo is ours."* (The Scotsman, UK, 8/3)
<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/international/ivic-dacic-tells-serbs-they-were-lied-to-over-kosovo-1-2825394>

Macedonian newspaper 'Evening': EU will support employment in the Western Balkans (Focus News, Bulgaria, 8/3)
<http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1757552>

Charts

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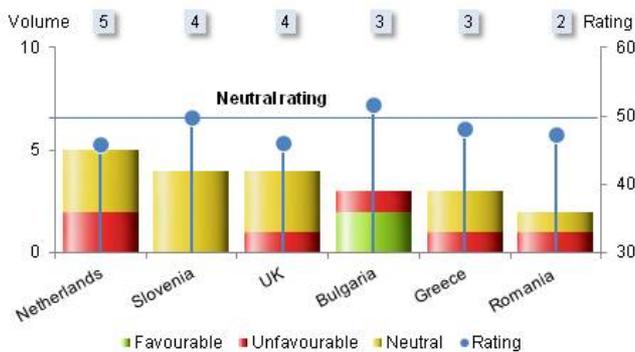
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Volume	25 items
Rating	48.6
Favourable %	12%
Unfavourable %	24%
Neutral %	64%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hans-Peter Friedrich (Interior Minister, Germany)	6
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	3
Päivi Räsänen (Interior Minister, Finland)	3
Janez Janša (Prime Minister, Slovenia)	2
Gert-Jan Segers (Member of Parliament, Netherlands)	2

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