



Summary

EU officials, headed by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, stated that the signing of the memorandum on Ljubljanska banka savers by Croatia and Slovenia is a sign of maturity and serves as an example for the whole region. In round table discussions and expert publications on the EU's enlargement policy however, the case of Slovenia and Croatia is mentioned as an example of improper exploitation of membership for settling bilateral disputes, since inter-state disputes should not be linked to the enlargement process. Since there are many conflicts in the Balkans, the EC is trying to identify such bilateral issues and encourage their resolution. (Delo, SI, 12/3).

- Delo, SI, 12/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130312/mi/item_150981395.pdf

The Serbian political leadership, President Tomislav Nikolić, Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and his deputy Aleksandar Vučić met in Brussels this week with Catherine Ashton. The aim of the meeting was to find common ground for an agreement on the future status of municipalities in Northern Kosovo, Dnevnik reports. The EU's guiding principle is that they do not want a new Republika Srpska, with the main condition being the suspension of all parallel structures in the police department, the courts, education and health. Serbia and Kosovo seem to agree on the formation of a federation of Serbian municipalities, but do not see eye to eye on the issue of the jurisdiction of local authorities (Dnevnik, BG, 12/3).

- Dnevnik, BG, 12/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130312/mi/item_150981346.pdf

The date for the publication of the European Commission report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM), which will determine the start of the EU accession talks, is already known, writes fYRoM daily Vecer. According to the newspaper, it is also clear when the resolution on the fYRoM will be voted in the European Parliament, namely April 8, a day after the second round of local elections in the fYRoM, while the EC will present its progress report on April 16.

- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/3,

In Brussels the final steps to be made before Croatia enters the EU were the focus of the meeting between the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia, Vesna Pusić who was attending the Council of Foreign Ministers of the EU. 'We discussed the final preparations before Croatia's EU accession' tweeted Malmström (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 11/3). Štefan Füle was quoted as saying that there will be one last report on the readiness of Croatia to join the EU, on 26th of March adding that "Expectations are positive" (sta.si, SI, 11/3).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 11/3, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/europa/2013/03/11/Croazia-Malmstrom-Pusnic-discussi-ultimi-preparativi_8380639.html
- sta.si, SI, 11/3, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1863607>

Key Quotes

Utrinski Vesnik: Macedonia gets a negotiator in Bulgaria.... Martin Raykov comes from the ambassador's chair in Paris and apart from prime minister he will be also minister of foreign affairs. Raykov will set the tone in the negotiations on the disputable issues, and the evaluation that he comes "from the heart of Europe" is a possible announcement that he will clearly and seriously understand the demands of Brussels when it comes to Macedonia. (Focus News, Bulgaria, 13/3)

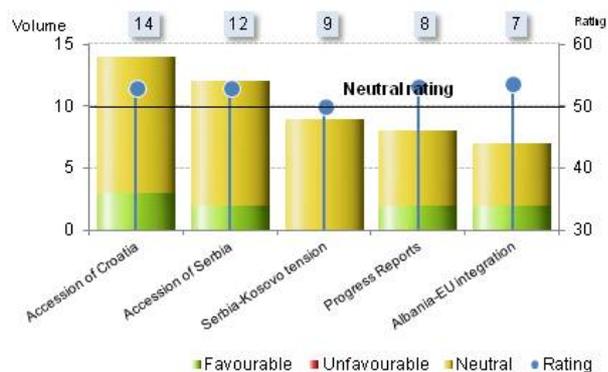
<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301547>

Abdullah Gül: "Turkey is part of Europe" (Aftonbladet.se, Sweden, 12/3)

<http://www.aftonbladet.se/ledare/ledarkronika/anderslindberg/article16399647.ab>

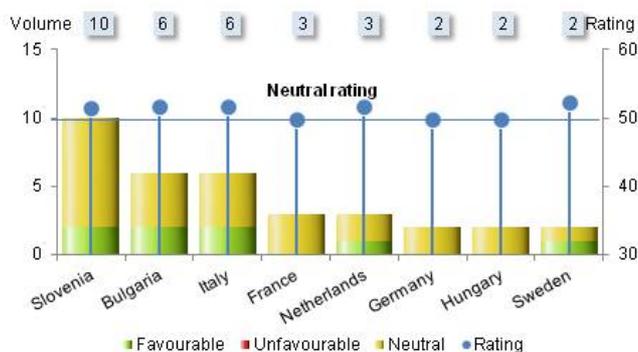
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Volume	36 items
Rating	51.5
Favourable %	25%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	75%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia)	9
Janez Janša (Prime Minister, Slovenia)	9
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	8
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	5

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