



Summary

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) will continue to discuss good neighbourly relations with the interim Bulgarian government appointed by Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev, Macedonian Vecer daily writes. The newly-appointed interim prime minister of Bulgaria said it would be irresponsible to change the priorities of the Bulgarian foreign policy for only three months and confirmed that the talks on the agreement with the fYRoM would continue (focus-fen.net, BG, 14/3). However UN mediator in the Greece-fYRoM name issue, Matthew Nimetz, has not set a date for the next round of the negotiations between Skopje and Athens, writes the fYRoM Dnevnik daily. According to unnamed diplomatic sources, the negotiations will not continue before the end of the local elections in the fYRoM. Nimetz will make a new proposal by the end of March or the beginning of April which will be "Upper Macedonia" or "Republic of North Macedonia". The media also commented that the issue concerning the Macedonian language and the Macedonian identity should be considered, too, since they were an even greater problem than the name (focus-fen.net, BG, 14/3).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 14/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301634>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 14/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301632>

In Slovenia the head of the Government Communication Office, Anže Logar, announced that the government had ratified the Slovenia-Croatia memorandum on the Ljubljanska banka savings deposits issue as well as confirming a bill ratifying Croatia's EU Accession Treaty and referring it to parliament for passage (sta.si, SI, 13/3). In Croatia after a meeting with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso the Croatian Prime Minister, Zoran Milanović said Croatia's goal was to join the Schengen area by the end of 2015 (sta.si, SI, 13/3).

- sta.si, SI, 13/3, <http://www.sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1864369>
- sta.si, SI, 13/3, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1864634>

In the European Parliament MEP Maria Gabriel noted that the European Commission will continue the monitoring of Bulgaria and Romania but that in July, Croatia will join the EU without a similar mechanism (mediapool.bg, BG, 14/3). Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said that last year the EC had noted shortcomings in monitored areas namely the fight against organised crime and corruption - resulting in a subsequent report (investor.bg, BG, 14/3).

- mediapool.bg, BG, 14/3, (link too long to include - available upon request)
- investor.bg, BG, 14/3, <http://www.investor.bg/evropa/334/a/evrokomisiyata-zapazva-mehanizma-za-nabliudenie-na-bylgariia-i-rumyniia,148236/>

Bulgarian and Romanian MEPs have opposed the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism of the European Commission (CVM). All four Bulgarian MEPs who took part in the debate, including Iliana Yotova, Monika Panayotova, Maria Gabriel, and Andrey Kovachev, agreed that the mechanism had had a positive impact but it had been exhausted and no longer fulfilled the purpose for which it had been created. They called on the Commission to develop standards against corruption and problems in the judiciary for the entire EU because the weaknesses were observable in places other than Bulgaria and Romania (novinite.com, BG, 14/3). Focus News (BG, 15/3) quoted Štefan Füle on the monitoring of Bulgaria and its media, namely that the reports are a means of reform and that most recommendations had encouraged Sofia and Bucharest to take positive steps over the last 5 years.

- novinite.com, BG, 14/3, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=148668
- Focus News, BG, 15/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301700>

Key Quotes

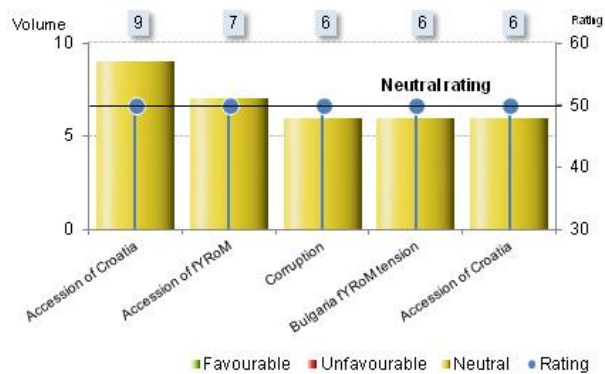
Titus Corlătean: "Romania supports the opening of chapters in Turkey's EU accession process. In fact, we believe this would create a win-win situation for both Turkey and the EU member states" (Collectif Van, France, 15/3)

<http://www.collectifvan.org/article.php?r=4&id=72110>

"CVM monitoring beneficial for Bulgaria": the new Justice Minister Dragomir Yordanov (Focus News, Bulgaria, 15/3) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301711>

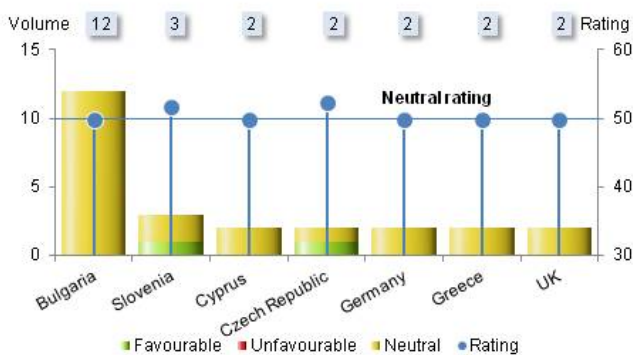
Charts

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



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

Volume	28 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	7.1%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	92.9%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Marin Raikov (Interim Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Iliana Yotova (MEP)	5
Monika Panayotova (MEP)	5
Mariya Gabriel (MEP)	5
Andrey Kovachev (MEP)	5
Adrian Severin (MEP)	4

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