



Summary

Yesterday European Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle met with Serbian state officials to discuss the implementation and fulfilment of the requirements and duties connected with Serbia's date to start EU accession talks. According to Füle's spokesperson, Peter Stano, the visit was organised within the regular consultations held by the European Commissioner before the preparation of the spring report on Serbia (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3). Krstimir Pantic Deputy Director of the Government Office for Kosovo and Metohija commented *"I am convinced that the Serbian negotiating team will not accept a solution in which there will be a community of Serbian municipalities, but that this community will not have any legislative and executive authorities"* and said that since Pristina enjoyed the support of the US and the EU, the authorities in Kosovo would not be ready for a compromise (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3). Additionally Major General Volker Halbauer commander of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) suggested that security of the Serbian nationals in Kosovo is endangered. and implied that part of the responsibility over this situation falls upon the parallel institutions in North Kosovo. *"Since bombs and other devices are exploding every day in Kosovska Mitrovica, then there is definitely a risk for citizens' safety"* (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301961>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301984>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n301973>

Ziaruldeiasi.ro, reported this morning on Štefan Füle's comments that the EU expects rapid progress in the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo: *"We expect in the coming weeks to see progress in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, particularly on the sensitive issue of the north of Kosovo"*. And Czech media rferl.org reported late yesterday that Commissioner Füle welcomed *"the new, dynamic"* Serbian-Kosovar dialogue, but said Belgrade must continue to improve those relations if it hopes to set a date for EU accession talks ([rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org), Czech, 18/3).

- Ziaruldeiasi.ro, RO, 19/3, <http://www.ziaruldeiasi.ro/stiri/ue-se-asteapta-la-progrese-rapide-in-relatia-dintre-serbia-si-kosovo--2418.html>
- Rferl.org, CZ, 18/3, <http://www.rferl.org/content/eu-serbia-kosovo-talks/24931536.html>

Widely reported in the Netherlands over the weekend was the story of the of the Turkish boy Yunus who is being fostered by a lesbian couple in the Hague and who is now in hiding because his biological mother has said she does not want him living with lesbians and has campaigned on Turkish television to have him back and called on the Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan, to intervene. Elsevier.nl reported that it demonstrated that the country is still far from the values of the EU (elsevier.nl, NL, 16/3) while nu.nl suggested the matter be raised during the Turkish Prime Minister's visit and supported the view that Turkey is not ready for accession to the European Union (nu.nl, NL, 16/3).

- elsevier.nl, NL, 16/3, <http://www.elsevier.nl/Buitenland/nieuws/2013/3/VVD-Turkije-kan-toetreding-tot-EU-voorlopig-wel-vergeten-1202608W/>
- nu.nl, NL, 16/3, 16/3, <http://www.nu.nl/politiek/3371212/turkije-verder-van-eu-yunus.html>

The accession negotiations with Turkey have also brought the status of the northern part of Cyprus into focus. The separate entity is recognised only by Turkey, which keeps around 30,000 troops in the north of the island. The prospect of EU enlargement has concentrated minds in the search for a settlement according to BBC online (bbc.co.uk, UK, 17/3).

- bbc.co.uk, UK, 17/3, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17217956>

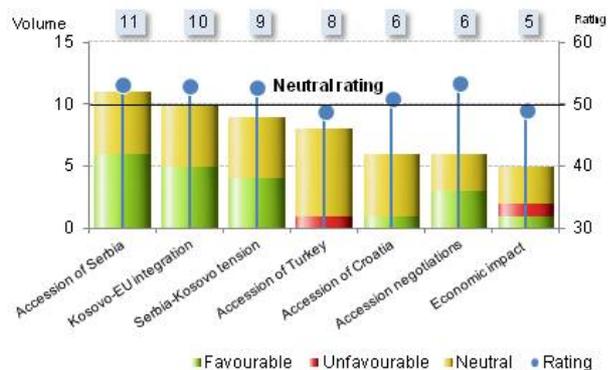
Key Quotes

"From 1 July 2013 when Croatia joins the EU, Croat regions and towns, small and medium-sized businesses, NGOs, scientists and other will be eligible for EU funds just like any other Member State," says EU Commissioner for Financial programming and Budget Janusz Lewandowski (Yahoo! France Finance, France, 18/3)

<http://fr.finance.yahoo.com/actualites/bruxelles-demande-etats-membres-rallonge-163756661.html>

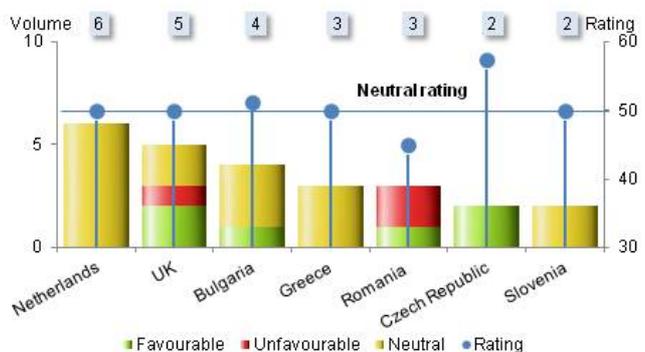
Charts

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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	28 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	25%
Unfavourable %	10.7%
Neutral %	64.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	4
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4
Nigel Farage (MEP)	2

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