



Summary

Serbia and Kosovo failed to reach an agreement on Wednesday to end the ethnic partition of the former Serbian province. Ivica Dačić was quoted as saying that *"There are still some differences, first of all with regard the competencies of the community for the Serbian municipalities [in Northern Kosovo] but I must also admit that for the past seven meetings we really managed to deal with some difficult issues, to reach some agreements and we actually dealt and resolved some issues that no one even dared to raise so far"*. Hashim Thaçi, also took a positive tone. *"I can confirm that we have achieved progress in some of the issues that have been addressed. I also cannot confirm that we are very close or far from a solution but we are at least heading in the right direction"* (rferl.org, CZ, 21/3). ABC Spain however quoted Foreign Minister Vučić's opinion that Serbia sees the EU proposal as unacceptable and that it *"did not give Serbia even a one percent chance to accept it"* (ABC, Spain, 21/3).

- rferl.org, CZ, 21/3, <http://www.rferl.org/content/serbia-kosovo-talks/24934648.html>
- ABC, ES, 21/3, <http://www.abc.es/agencias/noticia.asp?noticia=1378862>

Turkish daily Today's Zaman (20/3) reported that the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan started his visit to Denmark as the President of the European Movement Denmark, Erik Boel, said in Istanbul that Denmark is divided over Turkey's membership of the EU. However, according to him, the current government of Denmark is more pro-Turkish than the one in power during Erdoğan's last visit in 2005. In response to a question from Today's Zaman on what really leads to opposition to Turkey's membership in the EU, Boel said it is Islam and *"the idea that the EU is a Christian club"*. Expressing support for the diversity that Turkey could bring, Boel, however, said that there was a lot of double-talk and double-standards in the EU towards Turkey. According to Boel, Turkey was presented with criteria that are not found in the Copenhagen criteria and the issue of "Greek Cyprus", as the Republic of Cyprus is called, is used as a pretext to delay membership, especially by France. *"We should not have allowed Cyprus membership before the issue was resolved,"* said Boel, *"It is not about Turkey, it is about the EU."* With regard to the lingering membership negotiations, whilst he says that the EU has been surprised how fast Turkey is growing and performing well economically, he believes that Turkey would contribute economically to the union (hri.org, EL, 20/3). Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, writing in Cicero magazine, has called on his successor Angela Merkel to ensure that Turkey is eventually allowed to become a full EU member (Hamburger-Abendblatt, DE, 21/3). ANSamed, (IT, 21/3) reported that European Parliament members said that the European Union should open new chapters in the membership talks with Turkey, especially those regarding the justice sector and fundamental rights. The EU MPs also asked Turkey to reform its judicial system, considered *"vital for its democratic consolidation."*

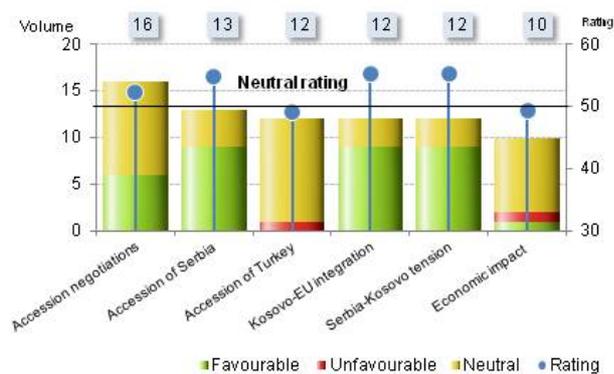
- hri.org, EL, 20/3, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-03-20.tcpr.html>
- Hamburger-Abendblatt, DE, 21/3, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130321/mi/item_151794627.pdf
- ANSamed, IT, 21/3 http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/europa/2013/03/21/Ue-Turchia-Eurodeputati-aprire-nuovi-capitoli-negoziati_8438298.html

Key Quotes

Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration Fatmir Besim said that ***"Only fair and democratic elections can lead to a positive report on Macedonia from the European Commission"*** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 2 2/3) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n302320>

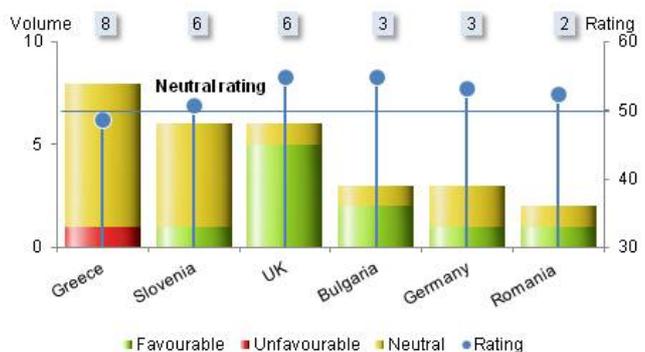
Charts

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	52
Favourable %	34.4%
Unfavourable %	3.1%
Neutral %	62.5%

©echo

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	12
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	12
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	11
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	6
Gerhard Schroeder (Former German Chancellor)	6

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