

## Summary

The European Commission (EC) confirmed yesterday that Croatia is ready to become the 28th member of the European Union (EU) on 1 July, while stressing that further efforts are needed to improve the fight against corruption and organised crime. *"Croatia has completed the ten priority actions identified in the previous report in October,"* (Ziarul de Iasi, Romania, 27/3). The news was widely reported: *"Croatia generally meets the requirements arising from the accession negotiations, in all chapters. Croatia has demonstrated its capacity to fulfill all commitments on time,"* (Štefan Füle, ABC.es, Spain, 27/3). Commissioner Füle was reported as saying after a meeting with the Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanović in Zagreb *"Croatia is now a different country compared to at the start of the accession process,"* (dw.de, Germany, 27/3). *"This report is a clean bill of health"* Mr Füle was also quoted as saying, but he warned Croatia against complacency (bbc.co.uk, UK, 26/3).

- Ziarul de Iasi, RO, 27/3, <http://www.ziaruldeiasi.ro/stiri/croatia-este-pregatita-sa-adere-la-ue--3432.html>
- ABC.es ES, 27/3, <http://www.abc.es/internacional/20130327/abci-croacia-201303261205.html>
- dw.de, DE, 27/3, <http://www.dw.de/croatia-cleared-to-join-the-eu-in-july/a-16701052>
- bbc.co.uk, UK, 27/3 [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130326/mi/item\\_152275642.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130326/mi/item_152275642.pdf)<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21937076>

Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanović and Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić will attend Slovenia's ratification of Croatia's EU Accession Treaty in Slovenia's parliament on 2 April, Pusić announced on Tuesday (sta.si, SI, 26/3). So far 22 EU member states have ratified Croatia's accession treaty, which awaits the green light from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Holland, and Slovenia. Given recent positive progress reports, no surprises are expected from Germany. *"We do not expect to have problems with the Bundestag"*, EU sources said (ansamed.info, IT, 25/3).

- sta.si, SI, 26/3, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1869443>
- ansamed.info, IT, 25/3, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/03/25/Croatia-final-EU-report-issued-tomorrow-ahead-EU-entry\\_8458454.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/03/25/Croatia-final-EU-report-issued-tomorrow-ahead-EU-entry_8458454.html)

The economic impact of enlargement, in particular, Croatia, was discussed by the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, who said *"Under this government, there will always be transitional controls introduced when a new country joins the EU, as we have seen with Bulgaria and Romania and as there will be when Croatia joins this year"* (bTV-Bulgaria, BG, 25/3).

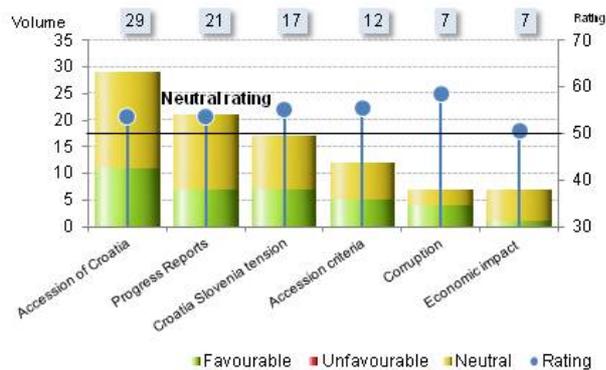
- bTV-Bulgaria, BG, 25/3 (no link available)

## Key Quotes

The EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle called on Albania's parties to ensure that the general elections meet a high standard in order to advance the country's EU goals. ***"The existing broad consensus in Albania on European Union integration needs to be confirmed by action,"*** Füle said (Dnevnik.bg, Bulgaria, 26/3) [http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshiravane/2013/03/26/2029925\\_fule\\_napomni\\_na\\_albaniia\\_che\\_triabva\\_da\\_provede/](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshiravane/2013/03/26/2029925_fule_napomni_na_albaniia_che_triabva_da_provede/)

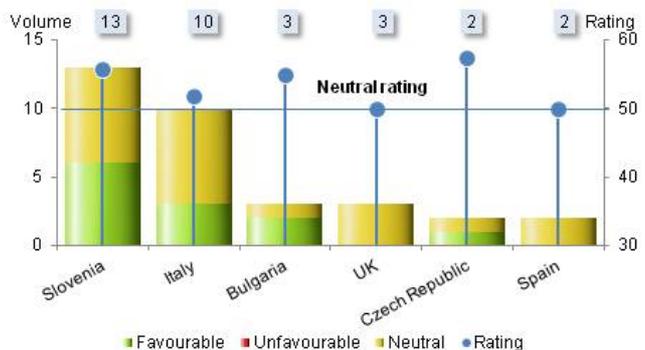
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ELARG: **Highlights**  
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Volume	36 items
Rating	53.6
Favourable %	36.1%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	63.9%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	16
Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia)	5
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	4
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2

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