



## Summary

Since 1999 and the end of the war in Kosovo, Serbia has paid out about seven billion euros to the Serbs in Kosovo - and Serbian funding still continues today, much of it being used to build up parallel structures and institutions in the north of the country. *"Of course, we would like to have the best of relationships with Belgrade – but unfortunately it's not very good at the moment,"* said Slobodan Petrović, head of the Independent Liberal Party (SLS), *"Belgrade doesn't see us as equal to the Serbs in the North"* (dw.de, DE, 1/4). Agreement between Pristina and Belgrade on the Serb communities is a condition for Serbian accession talks with the EU. Brussels has made this very clear saying that significant access to the EU will only be granted if relations between Serbia and Kosovo are normalised. Petrović is confident that there are enough responsible politicians in both Belgrade and Pristina who recognise and can seize this *"historic opportunity for normalised relations"*. Ties between the two countries will steadily improve, he says; perhaps one day it may even be the best relationship in the region. (dw.de, DE, 1/4).

- dw.de, DE, 1/4, <http://www.dw.de/most-serbs-in-kosovo-favor-cooperation/a-16712835>

Russia offered its support to Serbia, one day before the new round of negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo in Brussels on normalising the bilateral relations. EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton is pushing for an agreement by the middle of the month, in order for the EU to decide whether it will grant Serbia a date for the beginning of accession negotiations. Both sides say they are coming to the negotiating table in good spirits, but the messages from Belgrade and Pristina are rather controversial (Eleftherotypia, EL, 2/4). Catherine Ashton said that an agreement on normalising relations between Pristina and Belgrade and in particular the management of a Serb-majority area in northern Kosovo, *"won't be easy, but is in reach and we must not let this opportunity slide"* (ansamed.info, IT, 2/4).

- Eleftherotypia, EL, 2/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130402/mi/item\\_152884601.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130402/mi/item_152884601.pdf)
- ansamed.info, IT, 2/4, <http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/04/02/Serbia-Kosovo-Ashton-EU-agreement-in-reach-8488963.htm>

The Slovenian Ambassador to Croatia, Vojko Volk, told Croatian TV that Slovenia and Croatia share more interests than they can imagine today and he said he was hopeful that the two countries will be *"partners at the table for the 28 member states"* (sta.si, SI, 2/4). However some critics in Slovenia continue to express concern about the alleged lack of clarity regarding the memorandum on the issue of Ljubljanska banka savers, the resolution of which was needed to ratify the Croatian accession treaty (Radio-Slovenija-1, SI, 20/1).

- sta.si, SI, 2/4, <http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1871519>
- Radio-Slovenija-1, SI, 30/3, (no link available)

In other negotiations, UN mediator for the Greek-fYRoM name issue, Matthew Nimitz, has scheduled a new round of talks this month, Dnevnik daily stated. It is expected that Nimitz will hold individual meetings with the two negotiators before a joint one (focus-fen.net, BG, 2/4).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 2/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303132>

## Key Quotes

**Blow to Serbia's EU bid as Kosovo talks end without result. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who has been mediating months of talks between Serbia and Kosovo, said the gap between the two sides was *"very narrow, but deep"* after a marathon 12-hour session** (Reuters, UK, 3/4)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/03/uk-kosovo-serbia-eu-idUKBRE9310ZU20130403?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

**EU-mediated talks between Serbia and Kosovo have broken up without a deal. *"Despite all these long meetings, we do not have an agreement at this moment,"* Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić told Serbian media** (bbc.co.uk, UK, 2/4)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22010972>

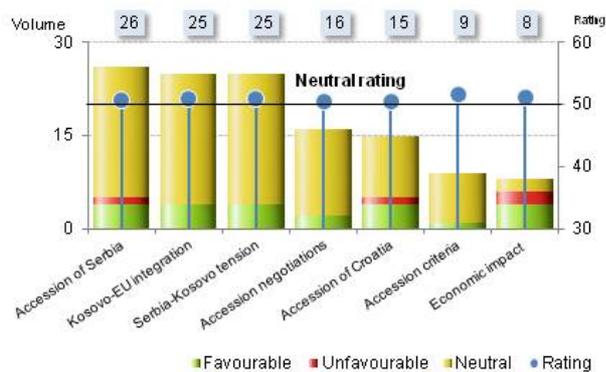
**Alenka Bratušek, PM of Slovenia: *"Croatia's successful accession to the European family shows all states that want to become members that they have to believe in the demanding path of reforms and adoption of EU standards"*** (dnevnik.bg, BG, 2/4)

[http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/04/02/2033917\\_slovenia\\_ratificira\\_dogovora\\_za\\_chlenstvo\\_na/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/04/02/2033917_slovenia_ratificira_dogovora_za_chlenstvo_na/?ref=rss)

**Slovenian ratification of Croatia's EU Accession Treaty was *"a moment too good last"*, the daily Večer says on Wednesday** (sta.si, Slovenia, 3/4) <http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1871892>

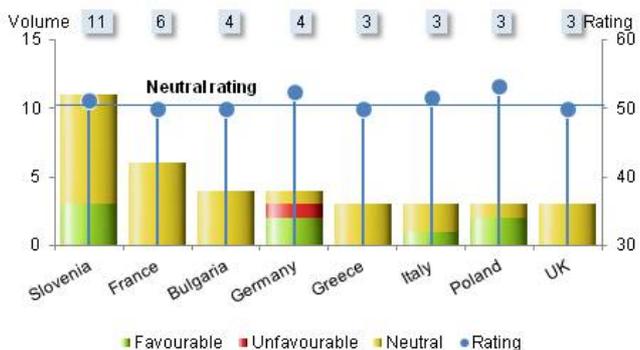
## Charts

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	41 items
Rating	50.7
Favourable %	19.5%
Unfavourable %	4.9%
Neutral %	75.6%

©echo

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	19
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	17
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	12
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4
Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia)	3
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	3
Ivan del Vechio (Croatian Ambassador to Poland)	3

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