



## Summary

After the EU-brokered talks on the status of Serb communities in Kosovo fell apart on Tuesday, Belgrade and Pristina reacted with anger and disappointment. Observers predict difficult times, including public unrest and early elections, for both countries. Mediator Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, expects both countries to inform her by early next week whether they are ready for a deal, the Serbian press agency Tanjug reported, citing EU sources. Concrete proposals for a solution have supposedly been already made according to Wirtschaftsblatt (AT, 4/4). Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić stated that there are still discrepancies regarding the jurisdiction and power of Serbian communities in Northern Kosovo (Vecer, SI, 4/4) adding that "On some points our positions are still far off, but there has been some progress" (Duma-Daily, BG, 4/4). Kosovo, which has been internationally recognised as an independent state by most western powers, remains sceptical about Serbia's commitment to reaching a fair deal: "Unfortunately, we still have hesitance on the Serbian side," said Mr Thaçi, referred to by the FT.com as a 'former guerrilla commander' (UK, 3/4).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 4/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item\\_153101378.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item_153101378.pdf)
- Vecer, SI, 4/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item\\_153089077.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item_153089077.pdf)
- Duma-Daily, BG, 4/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item\\_153075543.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item_153075543.pdf)
- Ft.com, UK, 3/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130403/mi/item\\_153026190.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130403/mi/item_153026190.pdf)

The two countries blame each other for the failed dialogue. Hashim Thaçi clarified that the controversial region will remain under Kosovar law without parallel structures. For the EU, this is a diplomatic defeat. Both countries have high expectations of joining the EU, for which an agreement is necessary. Neither Kosovar authorities, nor the Eulex Mission have managed to impose law and order in the region reports ARD (DE, 3/4). The Suddeutsche-Zeitung (DE, 4/4) writes that despite Kosovo accepting ten mostly autonomous Serbian communities within its territory, negotiations with Serbia were stopped as Serbia demanded extra courts, police and a ban of Kosovar and international military for the region and Kosovo justifiably refused this demand. To begin EU accession negotiations this spring Serbia must come to an agreement by the end of next week but for that its government must admit that it has lost Kosovo. With the exception of Prime Minister Ivica Dačić, no political actor in Belgrade apparently wants to make this concession. Trouw (NL, 4/4) reports that EU membership is vital for Serbia as it can attract new investors and that is important for the Serbian economy which is not in good shape currently.

- ARD, DE, 3/4, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130403/mi/2501-458498-001.mp4>
- Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE 4/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item\\_153071537.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item_153071537.pdf)
- Trouw, NL, 4/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item\\_153072304.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item_153072304.pdf)

During an official visit to Lithuania Turkish President Abdullah Gül said on Wednesday that the financial crisis in Cyprus presented an important opportunity to end the division of the island, split between the Greek Cypriot south and Turkish northern part saying "if the island were to unite, there would be greater economic potential" (dnevnik.bg, BG, 4/4). However Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle said "the European Commission again calls on Turkey to implement its obligations in maintaining normal neighbourly relations and to avoid acts or threats against a member state of EU" (Phileleftheros, CY, 4/4).

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 4/4, [http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/novini\\_ot\\_es/2013/04/04/2034875\\_turskiiat\\_prezident\\_krizata\\_v\\_kipur\\_e\\_shans\\_zo/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/novini_ot_es/2013/04/04/2034875_turskiiat_prezident_krizata_v_kipur_e_shans_zo/?ref=rss)
- Phileleftheros, CY, 4/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item\\_153091060.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130404/mi/item_153091060.pdf)

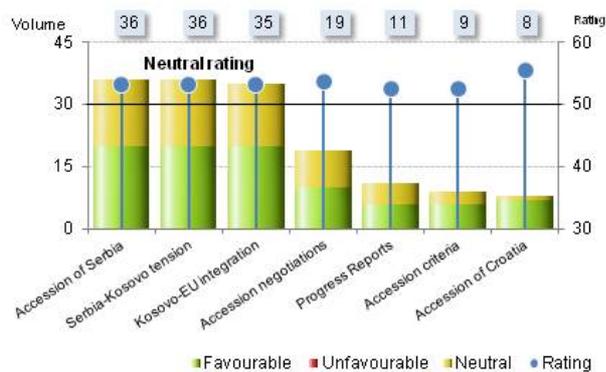
## Key Quotes

Serbia must accept a European Union-brokered plan to tackle the ethnic partition of its former province of Kosovo, or risk isolation, the country's finance minister said on Thursday. "We need to move towards the EU and to accept a solution with which will begin a lasting and stable relationship with Pristina, without forgetting the Serbs in Kosovo," said Mladjan Dinkic (Reuters, UK, 4/4.) <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/04/uk-serbia-kosovo-eu-idUKBRE93311620130404?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

"There is still a possibility for Belgrade and Pristina to reach an agreement, although the chances for a compromise are rather slim," said Serbian Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkić (voria.gr, Greece, 4/4.) <http://www.voria.gr/index.php?module=news&func=display&sid=131008>

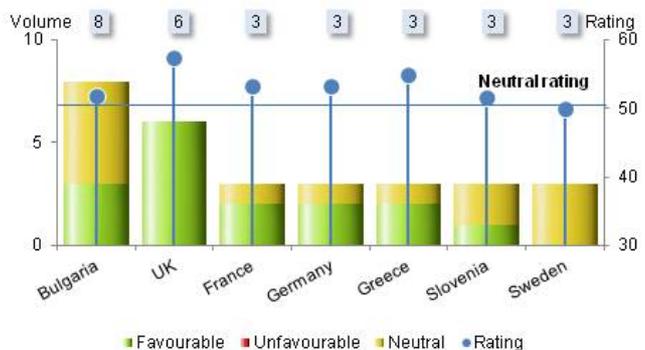
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ELARG: **Highlights**  
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Volume	41 items
Rating	53.3
Favourable %	53.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	46.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	31
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	29
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	29
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	10
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	9

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