



Summary

Rejecting the European Union-brokered plan as stated by Serbia's Finance Minister, Mlađan Dinkić on Thursday, could cost the country a coveted place at talks on joining the EU, a process that would drive reform and lure investors to the struggling Serbian economy, the biggest in the former Yugoslavia. In the first clear 'Yes' or 'No' by a cabinet minister, Mlađan Dinkić also said that Serbia had to close a chapter of history and turn to the future. Aleksandar Vučić, the First Deputy Prime Minister, said that *"Belgrade was facing two very difficult choices"* (romanalibera.ro, RO, 4/4) while Ivan Mrkić, the Foreign Minister stated that *"Serbia will not give up European integration, nor will it give up Kosovo"* (kerdos.gr, EL, 4/4).

- romanalibera.ro, RO, 4/4 (No link available)
- kerdos.gr, EL, 4/4, <http://www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1901022&nt=103>

According to media reports, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton has proposed temporary EU administration for northern Kosovo. However, Serbian analyst Predrag Simić stated that the EU is probably done with this issue, and if further dialogue is established, it will be under the direction of the U.S. He added that the Kosovo government is able to be so uncompromising because the U.S. does not want another Republika Srpska. The majority of analysts agree with him, but are nonetheless convinced that Serbia must not give up its European path because of Kosovo, since it needs European and American economic assistance (Delo, SI, 5/4).

- Delo, SI, 5/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130405/mi/item_153209242.pdf

Mrs Ashton also met the Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmed Davutoğlu in Ankara. The developments in Cyprus were among the issues discussed, with Davutoğlu stating that they both believe the new situation following the elections in "south Cyprus" will constitute a new window of opportunity. (Politis-Cyprus, CY, 5/4). But the Turkish Foreign Minister also expressed Ankara's objections to the Cypriot plan for the exploitation of hydrocarbons within the Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Kathimerini, EL, 5/4). Mrs Ashton stressed that Turkey is a key partner of the EU in the region, which is experiencing difficult events, the main one being the crisis in Syria (bTV-Bulgaria, BG, 4/4) and adding that *"The EU believes in the future of Turkey and wishes to take relations with Turkey to the next level"* (sigmalive.com, CY, 4/4).

- Politis-Cyprus, CY, 5/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130405/mi/item_153215075.pdf
- Kathimerini, EL, 5/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130405/mi/item_153220050.pdf
- bTV-Bulgaria, BG, 4/4, (No link available)
- sigmalive.com, CY, 4/4, <http://www.sigmalive.com/news/international/38651>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) and the European Union will resume talks on Tuesday when European Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, will visit Skopje, announced the news website Lokalno. Commissioner Füle will be accompanied by DG Enlargement Director General, Stefano Sannino. The authorities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will try to ensure a positive assessment in the Commission's spring report. It is expected that key issues, such as the political dialogue, good neighbourliness and the name dispute with Greece, will be discussed as well (focus-fen.net, BG, 5/4).

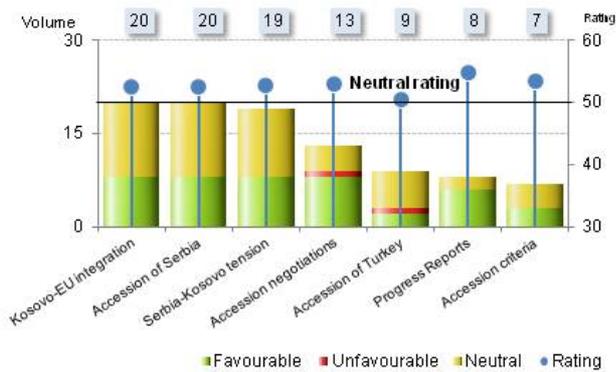
- focus-fen.net, BG, 5/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303441>

Key Quotes

"No Serbian leadership, including today's, has the right or mandate to agree to the kind of conditions that no other EU candidate country has been set. The entry ticket is too expensive," Patriarch Irinej said in a letter carried by the state news agency, Tanjug and published on the church's website. ***"Serbia must not agree to pay such a price upfront for goods that might never be delivered."*** (Reuters, UK, 6/4) <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/06/uk-serbia-kosovo-church-idUKBRE93507Y20130406>

Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating

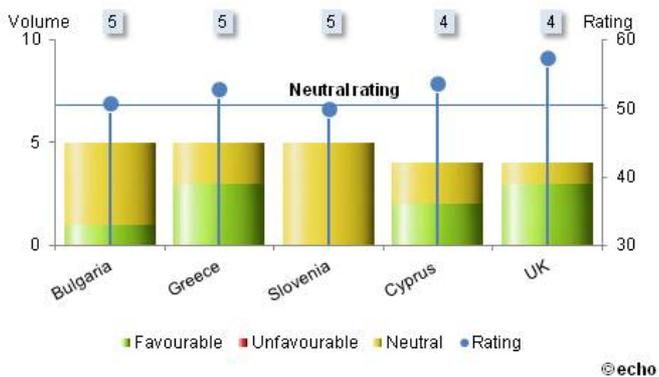


ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	35 items
Rating	51.6
Favourable %	31.4%
Unfavourable %	5.7%
Neutral %	62.9%

©echo

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



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)	18
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	10
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	9
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	5
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Ivan Mrkić (Foreign Minister, Serbia)	3
Tomislav Nikolić (President Serbia)	2
Mlađan Dinkić (Finance Minister, Serbia)	2

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