



## Summary

EU foreign policy and diplomacy chief Catherine Ashton has urged Serbia to make “one final effort to reach an agreement on the management of the north of Kosovo”, for the good of its citizens. After an official no from Belgrade to an agreement proposed during the 8th round of negotiations with Priština on April 2nd, Ashton expressed her regret but refused to let the last six months of negotiations slide into failure. “I believe that all the elements for a deal on the north of Kosovo are on the table, but at the same time the accord should be between the two parties and not imposed by the European Union” adding “I believe in a bright future for Serbia and Kosovo and I know that no matter how difficult the process was, it unlocked the potential for citizens to have a better life, especially in the north of Kosovo” (ansamed.info, IT, 9/11). The Deputy President of the Serbian Assembly Committee for EU Integration Laslo Varga said “The dialogue is likely to be continued, but in a different format and without the mediating role of Ashton. It is possible that it will take place directly between Belgrade and Priština, with mediation from those countries which have so far been the most influential - above all, Germany and America” (Duma-Daily, BG, 10/4).

- ansamed.info, IT, 9/11, <http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/04/09/Kosovo-Ashton-Serbia-make-one-final-effort-8522389.html>
- Duma-Daily, BG, 10/4, (no link available)

In an interview for Hospodářské Noviny (CZ, 10/4), Labinot Greiçevci of the Kosovo think-tank RIDEA, pointed out the importance of the agreement proposed by the EU last week and noted that not accepting it would be a lost opportunity not only for Serbia, but for the whole region. (Hospodarske-Noviny-Czech-Republic, CZ, 10/4). A statement from Priština said “The European Union’s proposal would contribute to peace, Europeanisation and stability, and would also mark the beginning of the closing of the historical conflict in the region” (E15, CZ, 10/4). Larazon reported that the Government of Kosovo is willing to undertake further discussions with the Serbian authorities (larazon.es, ES, 9/4).

- Hospodarske-Noviny-Czech-Republic, CZ, 10/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item\\_153637593.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item_153637593.pdf)
- E15, CZ, 10/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item\\_153632095.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item_153632095.pdf)
- larazon.es, ES, (no link available)

European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle suggested during his visit to Skopje that the image of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) is not improving in the EU member states. Mr Füle urged Macedonian politicians to be more responsible as the EU could only help them if they helped themselves first. Nevertheless, he pointed out that fYRoM was making progress with reforms in line with the High Level Accession Dialogue’s aims. Meanwhile, the European Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee adopted a draft resolution urging the Irish EU Presidency to undertake the diplomatic steps required to begin actual accession talks with the country (Sega-Daily, BG, 10/4). European Parliament fYRoM speaker, Richard Howitt, said “After four years of waiting it’s time. You cannot always say no” (ansa.it, IT, 9/4).

- Sega-Daily, BG, 10/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item\\_153642459.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item_153642459.pdf)
- ansa.it, IT, 9/4, <http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/09/Macedonia-Pressing-Pe-negoziati-adesione-giuqno-8523667.html>

In other negotiations Frans Timmermans, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said “Turkey’s accession to the European Union is not a big thing compared to what we have achieved in recent years in the field of European integration” (trouw.nl, NL, 9/4).

- trouw.nl, NL, 9/4, [http://www.trouw.nl/tr/nl/4496/Buitenland/article/detail/3422991/2013/04/09/Timmermans-Toetreding-Turkije-tot-EU-geen-groot-ding.dhtml?utm\\_source=RSSReader&utm\\_medium=RSS](http://www.trouw.nl/tr/nl/4496/Buitenland/article/detail/3422991/2013/04/09/Timmermans-Toetreding-Turkije-tot-EU-geen-groot-ding.dhtml?utm_source=RSSReader&utm_medium=RSS)

## Key Quotes

In an open letter to Angela Merkel, an independent think tank urged the German Chancellor to reconsider Croatia’s entrance into the Union later this year. “Croatia includes rampant corruption, organised crime, persecution of media, fraudulent elections, and a depressed economy,” the Croatian Adriatic Institute for Public Policy (AI) claimed. “We strongly recommend that Germany reject the entrance of Croatia to the EU,” the letter said (express.co.uk, UK, 11/4).

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/390780/It-would-be-a-financial-and-political-risk-to-allow-Croatia-to-join-EU-warned>

“Serbia can continue to aspire to join the European Union but never forget that Russia and the Russian people are our greatest friends,” Iviča Dačić said. “We are ready to continue talks (on Kosovo). Now Serbia asks Russia to help bring these negotiations with the U.N. framework” (Yahoo!, UK, 10/4).

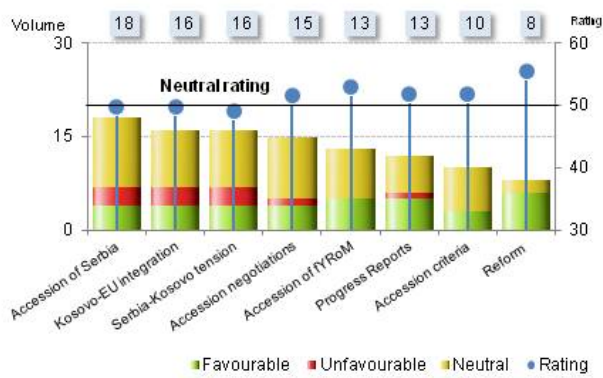
<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/russia-lend-serbia-500-million-pledges-support-kosovo-145604666--business.html#4qNXIsD>

Utrinski Vesnik, Macedonia: “Greece is not satisfied with UN envoy’s new proposal” (Focus News, Bulgaria, 11/4).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303879>

## Charts

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

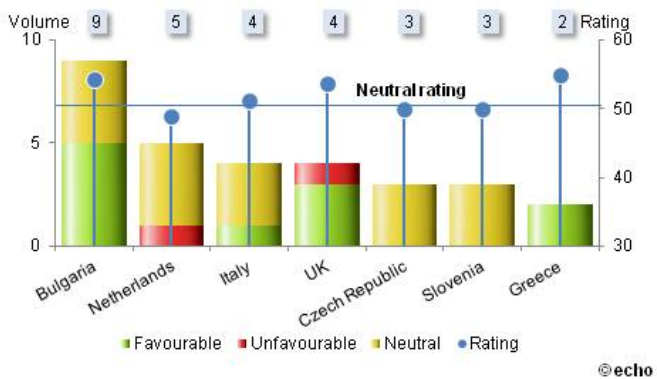


ELARG: **Highlights**  
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Volume	36 items
Rating	51.5
Favourable %	30.6%
Unfavourable %	8.3%
Neutral %	61.1%

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



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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)	15
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	9
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	9
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	8
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	4
Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands)	4

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