

Summary

Russia has granted Serbia a \$500 million loan and promised to back Belgrade in its dispute with Kosovo. Russia's credit to Serbia, a 10-year loan carrying interest of 3.5 percent, was only half the amount Belgrade was seeking to help restore growth this year after a recession in 2012. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev also told his Serbian counterpart Ivica Dačić in Moscow on April 10 that Russia would "always support our Serbian friends" but said a solution to the dispute with Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority must come from Belgrade itself (rferl.org, CZ, 10/4). In La Nueva España (10/) European People's Party MEP, Salvador Garriga, writes a column on the Balkans to mark the twenty years that have passed since the war in the region. He notes that Kosovo's independence stokes up tension in Serbia, which fuels the debate about national pride versus economic need. In the background, he says, Russia and China are capitalising on the wait. He goes on to say that Europe wants peace from the Balkans; and they want to return to Europe. A mutual effort is in the interest of everyone he suggests. Italian journalist, Max Ferrari, however, writes that the European Union would like to force Serbia to humiliate itself further towards Kosovo (Padania, IT, 11/4).

- rferl.org, CZ, 10/4, (no clip available)
- Nueva-Espana, ES, 10/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130410/mi/item_153696327.pdf
- Padania, IT, 11/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130411/mi/item_153769880.pdf

UN mediator in the name dispute between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Matthew Nimetz, has offered new proposals to Skopje and Athens and has asked the governments of both countries to explore them and give their answers during his visit to the region or at another meeting with the negotiators, Adamantios Vassilakis and Zoran Jolevski, in New York. According to diplomatic sources cited in several Greek media, the proposals include a name with geographical qualifier, most probably Upper Macedonia. (dnevnik.bg, BG, 10/4). The relationship of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) with Bulgaria was also in the news, when the Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki commenting on Bulgarian Prime Minister Marin Raykov's statement that monuments to Bulgarians in Skopje was proof that both nations were one in the past and they should celebrate history together, said that the message was for cooperation with their eastern neighbour. He said that both Bulgaria and the fYRoM would both be able to win in this way (focus-fen.net, BG, 11/4).

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 10/4, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/04/10/2039081_posrednikut_na_oon_napravi_novo_predlojenie_za_imeto/?ef=rss
- focus-fen.net, BG, 11/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303887>

According to Ankara's Anatolia news agency (09.04.13), Turkish Minister of EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış, speaking at the joint press conference with Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, Eamon Gilmore on Wednesday, said that Turkey would support and approve any solution the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots agreed on as long as the solution was based on political equality in the island. Gilmore commented that "Ireland has been a strong supporter of Turkey's EU membership. During our 7th EU term presidency, we have made it our aim to revive accession talks between Turkey and the EU" (hri.org, CY, 10/4).

- hri.org, CY, 10/4, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-04-10.tcpr.html>

Key Quotes

Bosnia's bid to join the European Union faces being "frozen" and a planned election next year declared invalid without urgent reform of its constitution, the EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle told reporters in Sarajevo. "The political leadership here has not prioritised the EU agenda and translated its declared commitments on the EU into concrete action," (Reuters, UK, 11/4)
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/11/uk-bosnia-eu-idUKBRE93A0KY20130411>

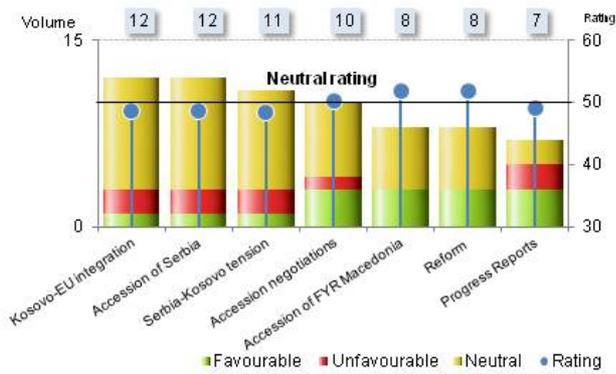
Bosnian Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija said he held out little hope of the country's main political parties agreeing on how to reform the constitution. "I don't believe there is even a theoretical chance that seven political leaders can agree on the judgement," (Dnevnik, Bulgaria, 11/4)
http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/04/11/2040173_evrokomisar_fjule_putiat_na_bosna_kum_es_shte_bude/?ref=rss

Former Croatian PM confident country will benefit from EU entry (sta.si, Slovenia, 11/4)
<http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1875198>

Dnevnik, Macedonia: "EC Spring report will be positive," said Slovenian Foreign Minister (Focus News, Bulgaria, 12/4)
<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303963>

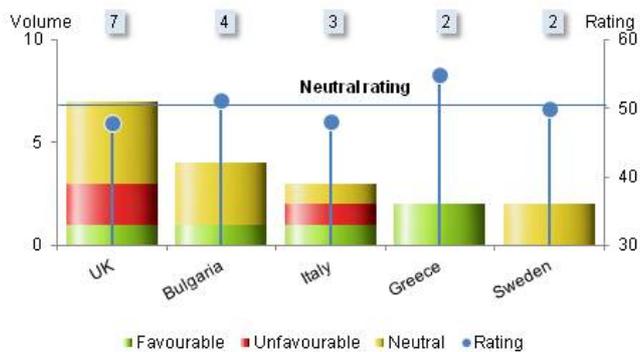
Charts

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



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

Volume	24 items
Rating	49.4
Favourable %	20.8%
Unfavourable %	16.7%
Neutral %	62.5%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Matthew Nimetz (Special Representative for the naming dispute between Greece and the FYRoM, UN)	4
Dmitry Medvedev (Prime Minister, Russia)	4
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Vladimir Putin (President, Russia)	3

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