

## Summary

European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle said that Bosnia's and Herzegovina's bid to become a member of the EU could be "frozen" if the country fails to implement constitutional changes to allow people from the Jewish and Roma communities to hold high political office. He said he noticed with regret that for more than three years the political parties have failed to make any meaningful progress in implementing the Sejdic-Finci judgement (focus-fe.n.net, BG, 12/4). Sta.si, (SL, 11/4) reported that Füle stressed that the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the right of all citizens to stand for election remained a prerequisite for further integration into the EU. His quotation on this matter was reported in corsematin.com (FR, 12/4). He also added "*The Bosnian politicians did have not treated the EU as a priority and I am very disappointed by this*" (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 12/4).

- sta.si, SI, 11/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303938>
- corsematin.com, FR, 12/4, <http://www.corsematin.com/article/monde/bosnie-lintegration-a-lue-risque-detre-gelee-selon-un-commissaire-europeen.958456.html>
- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 12/4, [http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/11/Bosnia-Ue-Fule-Sarajevo-deluso-politici-locali\\_8538211.html](http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/11/Bosnia-Ue-Fule-Sarajevo-deluso-politici-locali_8538211.html)

An opinion piece in Mladina suggests that although Slovenia has ratified Croatia's agreement with the European Union, the people of Croatia do not appear to be thrilled. Despite the fact the Croatian citizens were only told about the advantages of the EU, they nevertheless found that corruption, human and minority rights, and the catastrophic situation in the judiciary were not as important for the EU as working out how to limit the allegedly excessive labour rights and privatising what little remains of the nationalised industries, especially the shipyard Brodosplit. It seems that Brussels officials are not as bothered by the threats of the so-called Croatian defenders, who deny the fundamental values of the EU, as they were by the opposition of workers in Split (Mladina, SI, 12/4). The BBC Balkans correspondent Guy De Launey also picks up this topic saying that the prospect of membership was previously a matter of great national pride to Croatians. But enthusiasm for the election is at best lukewarm, he says, as joining the EU is not guaranteed to make matters better and may expose local businesses to increased competition. Croatians just have to look next door to Slovenia, which is also facing economic difficulties, to see that EU membership is no panacea, he adds (bbc.co.uk, UK, 14/4).

- Mladina, SI, 12/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130412/mi/item\\_153876170.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130412/mi/item_153876170.pdf)
- bbc.co.uk UK, 14/4, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22142868>

Greece hopes that the new proposal of the UN mediator in the Macedonian name dispute, Matthew Nimitz, will bring the two countries closer together as they try and find a mutually satisfactory decision, Utrinski Vesnik writes. According to the paper the Greek Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the proposal, saying that it will analyse it first and will respond to Nimitz in a constructive manner (focus-fen.net, BG, 12/4). The visit to Skopje of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, is not related to the dispute over the name issue, but is intended to put further pressure on the political figures in the country to resolve the political crisis, Utrinski Vesnik daily writes, citing unnamed diplomatic sources. Focus fen reports that Ashton's visit to Skopje was to deliver views from Brussels to the government and opposition (BG, 12/4).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303966>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n303970>

Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić has abandoned hope for an appointment on the beginning of the EU membership talks in June writes orf.at, (AT, 11/4). Following a meeting with German and French representatives in Belgrade last Wednesday, he said he was informed by the guests in a "*decent and pleasant*" way that Belgrade should not hope for an appointment for the membership talks in June. He told Serbian media that he was deeply disappointed.

- orf.at, AT, 11/4, <http://orf.at/stories/2176289/>

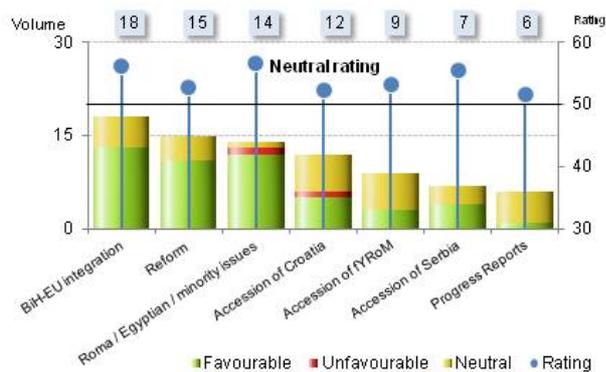
## Key Quotes

**EU's Ashton to visit Balkans as Serbia awaits talks verdict. "*I travel to the Western Balkans to reinforce the EU's commitment to the European perspective for the countries in the region. I will encourage the leaders in the region to continue the reform process and promote good neighbourly relations,*" Ashton said in the statement (Reuters, UK, 14/4).**

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/14/uk-serbia-eu-idUKBRE93DOCY20130414?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

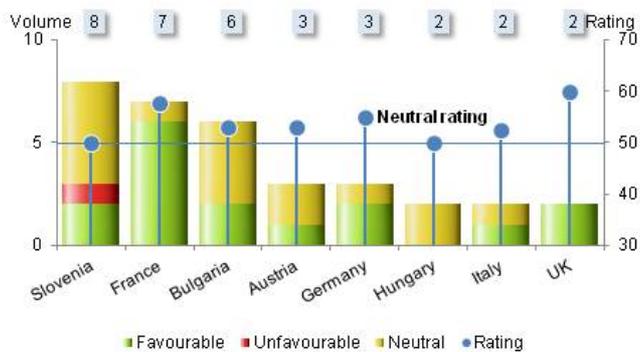
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| Unfavourable % | 2.9%     |
| Neutral %      | 50%      |

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources  | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)   | 16                 |
| Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)           | 3                  |
| Zlatko Lagumdžija (Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.) | 3                  |
| Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia)  | 2                  |
| Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)   | 2                  |
| Karl Erjavec (Foreign Minister, Slovenia)  | 2                  |
| Jadranka Kosor (Former Prime Minister, Croatia)  | 2                  |

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