



## Summary

Serbia and Kosovo failed to agree on a plan to tackle the ethnic partition of Serbia's former province on Thursday. After around 14 hours of talks in Brussels between the Serbian and Kosovo prime ministers, billed as a make-or-break session, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said differences remained between the two sides. She held out hope there could yet be an agreement before an EU ministerial meeting on Monday at which she is expected to make a recommendation on whether Serbia is ready to start talks on joining the EU (uk.reuters.com, UK, 18/4). Ashton said "*I hope in that time, that both delegations will reflect on whether they can take the final steps necessary to finish this agreement and to move their people forward into the future*" (rferl.org, CZ, 18/4). Express (GR, 18/4) reported Commissioner Füle's comment : "*We have reached the breakpoint again. We hope that Pristina and Belgrade can achieve new results in the dialogue and complete it with a clear agreement in the interest of Serbia and Kosovo, their citizens, the Balkans and the EU.*"

- uk.reuters.com, UK., 18/4, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/17/uk-serbia-kosovo-idUKBRE93G1AD20130417>
- rferl.org, CZ, 18/4, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-eu/24960899.html>
- Express, GR, 18/4, [http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/703895oz\\_20130418703895.php3](http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/703895oz_20130418703895.php3)

Members of the European Parliament vote on the draft resolution on Serbia, drawn up by the EP rapporteur for the West Balkans, Jelko Kacin, Serbian Blic daily writes. Kacin called on the European Council to set a date for the launch of negotiations and expressed hope that the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina would bring the needed results by the end of the week. "*Reaching an agreement in the dialogue will have an effect on the European integration of both countries and the West Balkans*" Kacin remarked (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/4). It was noted that for the first time the problems of the Bulgarian minority in Serbia were included in the progress report on Serbia (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/4).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n304445>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n304444>

According to Ethnos newspaper the interim report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) published by Commissioner Štefan Füle, seems to be an undisguised attempt to favour the country, both in terms of good neighbourly relations as well as fulfilment of the EU criteria. Mr Füle, who, the paper writes, has not hidden his favour towards the country, reports on '*progress*' in all areas of concern in an attempt to distort the image. Mr Füle's report is expected to be used as a means of pressure on Greece to accept the proposal of the UN Special Envoy Matthew Nimetz and for Greece to accept a name in order for the country to be accepted into NATO and the EU (Ethnos, EL, 18/4).

- Ethnos, EL, 18/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130418/mi/item\\_154417215.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130418/mi/item_154417215.pdf)

The Irish EU Presidency, during the discussion at the EP Plenary on Turkey's EU accession report, stressed the need for Turkey to normalise relations with the Republic of Cyprus if it wishes to accede to the EU. The Presidency also outlined that Turkey is a key partner for the EU and that the Turkish economy is contributing to prosperity in the EU (Politis-Cyprus, CY, 18/4).

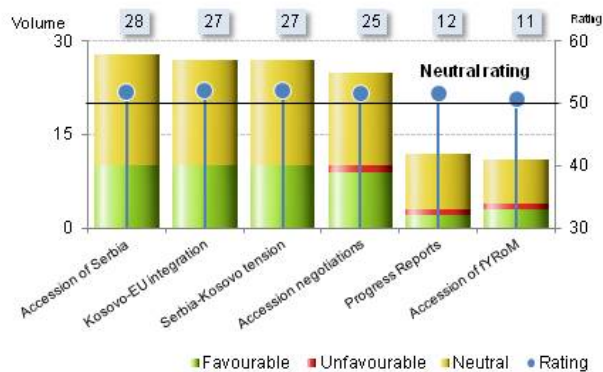
- Politis-Cyprus, CY, 18/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130418/mi/item\\_154416284.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130418/mi/item_154416284.pdf)

## Key Quotes

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said Thursday that BiH has done little, if anything, recently to carry out reforms needed for it to eventually join the European Union. "*I'm really disappointed that no real progress has been made since I last came here in October 2012,*" Ashton told reporters after meeting members of BiH's tripartite presidency (Focus News, Bulgaria, 18/4) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n304485>

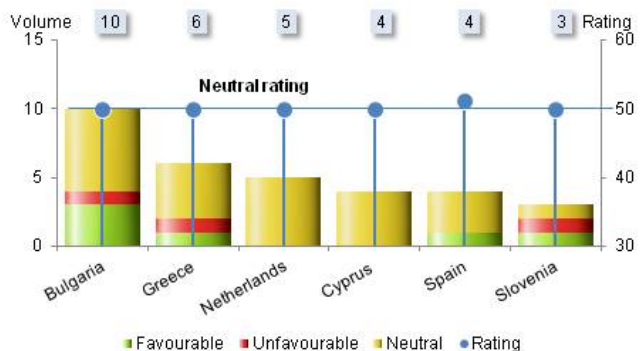
## Charts

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



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ELARG: **Highlights**  
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Volume	44 items
Rating	51
Favourable %	27.3%
Unfavourable %	6.8%
Neutral %	65.9%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
by volume, favourability & rating 42.9

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	24
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	21
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	21
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	8
Nikola Poposki (Foreign Minister, FYRoM)	4
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	3
Vlora Çitaku (Minister for European Integration, Kosovo)	2
Jelko Kacin (MEP)	2

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