

## Summary

Kosovar Premier Hashim Thaçi and his Serbian counterpart, Ivica Dačić will soon embark on a new round of talks on how to implement the accord they reached last Friday, an EU source said on Wednesday: *"There will certainly be more meetings on all levels. The process is not over. It has entered a new phase, that of implementation. The first EU-mediated technical meetings will take place here in the next few days"*. The source continued *"Implementation is crucial of course. I don't think it will be easy but if both parties remain committed in the same way, it can be done"*. Kosovo and Serbia's shared desire to enter the EU was the key factor in hammering out their accord last week. *"Both sides wanted to move on and both decided that something had to change in order to do so"*, the source explained, adding that the EU is closely monitoring the implementation process ahead of its June summit (ansa.it, IT, 24/4).

- ansa.it, IT, 24/4, [http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/24/Serbia-Kosovo-fonti-Ue-presto-nuovi-incontri-Bruxelles\\_8608907.html](http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/24/Serbia-Kosovo-fonti-Ue-presto-nuovi-incontri-Bruxelles_8608907.html)

The European Commission has submitted to Member States' guidelines for an association agreement with Kosovo, said European Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle, after Pristina fulfilled the short term priorities in the field of law, public administration, commerce and protection of minorities identified by the Brussels feasibility study. As for countries that do not recognise Kosovo's independence, Mr Füle gave reassurances explaining that the Commission had given guarantees for the advancement of Kosovo in the enlargement process based on extensive consultation with all Member States and taking into account the concerns of some in particular, and that it was a decision taken by consensus (ansa.it, IT, 24/4).

- ansa.it, IT, 24/4, [http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/24/Kosovo-Fule-Ue-ottimista-luce-verde-negoziati-giuqno\\_8608817.html](http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/04/24/Kosovo-Fule-Ue-ottimista-luce-verde-negoziati-giuqno_8608817.html)

In an opinion piece Duma daily (BG, 25/4) argues that Bulgaria ought to maintain its hardline stance towards the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU accession and states that Skopje should only be allowed to enter the EU once it signs a good neighbourly relations agreement with Sofia. The newspaper cites a number of instances where authorities from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia lied to EU institutions and those lies were nevertheless included in the latest European Commission report. The piece also reports that Commissioner Füle is nudging the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia towards accession without taking Bulgaria's position into account. It says that Mr Füle went as far as bullying the opposition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia before the snap elections in March (Duma-Daily, BG, 25/4).

- Duma-Daily, BG, 25/4, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130425/mi/item\\_155078464.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130425/mi/item_155078464.pdf)

The Greek Foreign Minister, Dimitris Avramopoulos, convinced U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that Greece was willing to find a solution to the name dispute with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but that the latter did not want a resolution and that it faced problems with the implementation of reforms (focus-fen.net, BG, 25/4).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 25/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n305025>

## Key Quotes

The Economist: ***"The deal struck between Serbia and Kosovo on April 19th was nothing short of historic. It was a big success for Catherine Ashton, the European Union's foreign-policy chief, who mediated ten gruelling rounds of talks between the leaders of the two sides. And it demonstrates that the lure of EU enlargement is still sufficiently strong to get people and countries to do things that they would otherwise resist"*** (The Economist, UK, 26/4)

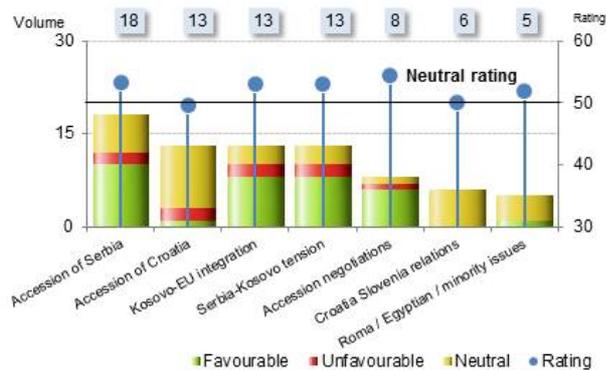
<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21576701-serbia-and-kosovo-agree-last-balkan-breakthrough?fsrc=rss>

Serbia's President, Tomislav Nikolić has apologised for all ***"crimes"*** committed by Serbs during the break-up of Yugoslavia, including Srebrenica. He said: ***"I kneel and ask for forgiveness for Serbia for the crime committed in Srebrenica. "I apologise for the crimes committed by any individual in the name of our state and our people"*** (BBC online, UK, 25/4).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22297089>

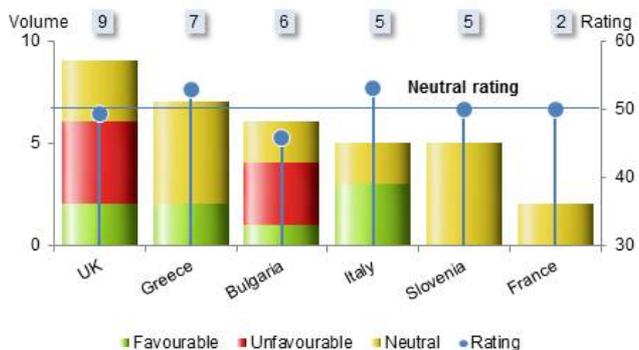
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Rating	50
Favourable %	26.3%
Unfavourable %	23.7%
Neutral %	50%

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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)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	4
Dejan Židan (Minister of Agriculture, Slovenia)	4

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