



Summary

Serbia stepped back from holding a referendum on the landmark accord with its former Kosovo province on Tuesday, saying it would push on with the deal seen as central to its hopes of joining the European Union. *"Serbia will not hold a referendum about the agreement between Belgrade and Pristina"*, said Prime Minister Ivica Dačić (Focus News, Bulgaria, 1/5).

Serbia needs to demonstrate progress on the ground before the 27-nation EU rules in late June whether to grant accession talks, a process expected to drive reform and lure much-needed investors to the Serbian economy reports uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 30/4). Kosovan Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said he hoped Belgrade would not obstruct recognition of his country by international bodies such as the United Nations. But Guardian online (UK, 30/4) writes that this is out of the question for the Serb government, which has already gone much further than any of its predecessors.

- Uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 30/4, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-deal-ahead-without-vote-serb-pm-155220517.html#KQ2CHtu>
- Guardian.co.uk, UK, 30/4, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/30/serbia-kosovo-historic-agreement-brussels>
- Focus News, BG, 1/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n305477>

After the Serbian Assembly confirmed the agreement on the normalisation of relations with Kosovo, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić visited Zagreb and met the Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić. Vecer (SI, 30/4) writes that his visit had the sole purpose of improving the image of his country. He stated after the meeting that he hoped that relations between the two countries will be founded on honesty and credibility instead of emotion. He especially thanked Ms. Pusić for the support that Croatia offered Serbia in their attempts to start accession negotiations with the EU. He said *"Of course we know that we disagree about certain things that happened in the past, in 1991-1995, but what is crucial is that we talked about the future and how to solve problems"* adding *"I am convinced that Serbia and Croatia can slowly but surely build their relationship"* (voria.gr, EL, 30/4).

- Vecer, SI, 30/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130430/mi/item_155528148.pdf
- Voria.gr, EL, 30/4, <http://www.voria.gr/index.php?module=news&func=display&sid=134089>

In the northern part of Cyprus Turkish Cypriot leader, Dervis Eroğlu sent a letter to Commission President Barroso calling the Commission to block any action that ignores the island's sensitivities. He argued that the Turkish Cypriot side is taking positive and constructive measures for a solution to the Cyprus problem, however, the Commission's letter to all departments calling for all inscriptions and names in the non-government controlled areas to be written in Greek was "unfortunate" (Politis-Cyprus, CY, 30/4). Spiegel Online (DE, 1/5) reported Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides' statement *"If Turkey stops blocking the Republic of Cyprus from joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program, then we will offer to lift our objection to an administrative agreement between Turkey and the European Defense Agency. We are also ready to put on the table certain chapters of the accession negotiations between Turkey and the EU that have so far been blocked by Cyprus"*.

- Politis-Cyprus, CY, 30/4, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130430/mi/item_155529407.pdf
- Spiegel Online, DE, 1/5, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/cypriot-foreign-minister-ioannis-kasoulides-on-prospects-for-reconciliation-a-897562.html>

Key Quotes

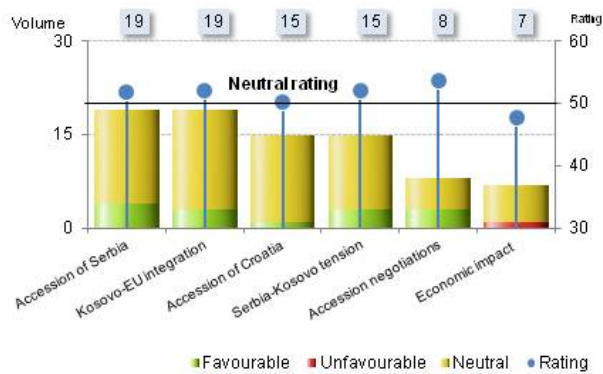
"Agreement with Pristina should be accomplished", said Serbian first deputy, Aleksandar Vučić (Focus News, Bulgaria, 2/5) <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1778728>

"The agreement between Belgrade and Pristina is good, because no one is pleased with it", said U.S. Ambassador in Belgrade, Michael Kirby (Focus News, Bulgaria, 2/5) <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1778723>

"A lot of European Union member states think Macedonia is not ready to start accession negotiations", said Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev (Focus News, Bulgaria, 1/5) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n305486>

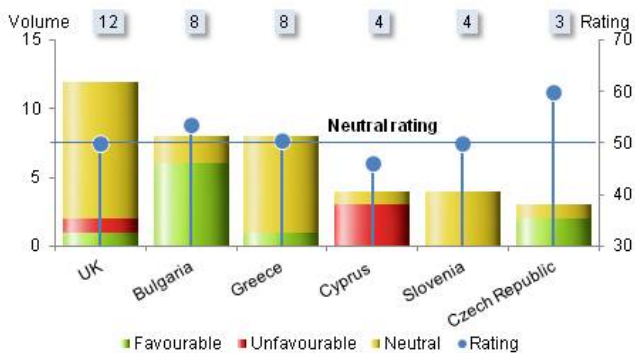
Charts

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



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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	48 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	20.8%
Unfavourable %	12.5%
Neutral %	66.7%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	4
Dervis Eroğlu (Turkish Cypriot leader)	4
Mark Gray (Spokesperson, EC)	4
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Jose Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Dimitar Tsanchev (Bulgarian Ambassador to the EU)	3

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