

## Summary

On Thursday Denmark ratified Croatia's EU accession agreement and now only the German Bundestag needs to do the same in order for the Balkan country to join the European Union on 1 July. The accession agreement was approved unanimously by the Danish parliament (Phileleftheros, EL, 3/5). BBC online (UK, 3/5) reported that some 20 years ago, as Croats broke away from the former Yugoslavia, it is estimated that three-quarters of Croats yearned to join the European Union, or European Community as it then was. These sentiments reflected the general idea that EU membership could both broaden opportunities for Croats in Europe and that Brussels would keep their government institutions on the straight and narrow. Those against membership now worry more about the cost of living. They worry that prices will rocket and that other EU citizens will arrive in numbers and occupy well-paid jobs. While it is unlikely thousands will make a bee line for Croatia, the country will face challenges from the moment it becomes a member (bbc.co.uk, UK, 3/5).

- Phileleftheros, EL, 3/5, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130503/mi/item\\_155785704.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130503/mi/item_155785704.pdf)
- bbc.co.uk, UK, 3/5, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22386837>

*"The agreements from Brussels must be put into effect and the current question is how to implement this in accord with the Kosovo Serbs",* stated Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić. He also said that Serbia would do all it takes in order to receive a date for talks regarding its EU membership. *"If someone from the government signs an agreement and this agreement meets the approval of the government, then this agreement must be put into effect"* Vučić commented (focus-fen.net, BG, 2/5).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 2/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n30552>

Greece has long been at odds with its close neighbour, Turkey, over territorial disputes in the Aegean and the divided island of Cyprus. Relations warmed after both countries suffered earthquakes in 1999 and offered each other practical help. Although the disputes remain unresolved, the Greek government gives strong backing to Turkey's EU bid. It sees dividends to be gained from the increased regional stability that it believes membership would bring according to bbc.co.uk (UK, 2/5). Meanwhile Turkey announced on May 2 that it has selected a Japanese-French consortium to build the country's second nuclear power plant, in a tender competition that had come down to a straight race testing Ankara's recent declaration that its destiny lies to the east rather than west. The selection of the Mitsubishi-Areva consortium marks an improvement in Turkish-French ties, which have been strained in recent years. (bne.eu, UK, 3/5).

- bbc.co.uk, UK, 2/5, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17372520>
- bne.eu, UK, 3/5, [http://www.bne.eu/story4904/Turkey\\_hands\\_nuclear\\_plant\\_contract\\_to\\_JapaneseFrench\\_consortium](http://www.bne.eu/story4904/Turkey_hands_nuclear_plant_contract_to_JapaneseFrench_consortium)

Mediapool.bg, (BG, 2/5) citing MIA reported that the Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev said that the decision that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was not yet ready to start accession negotiations was a *"joint decision from the Council of Ministers of the European Union and that there had been no veto from Bulgaria or Greece and that many countries had expressed concern"*.

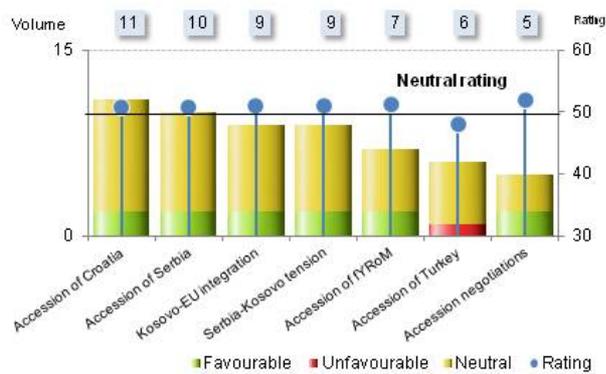
- mediapool.bg, BG, 2/5 (no link available)

## Key Quotes

Kosovo organ trafficking scandal widens. **"There is a perception Eulex doesn't want to rock the boat with too many high-level indictments. Stability is priority No 1 for the international community,"** said a Western diplomat on condition of anonymity (The Independent, UK, 5/5). <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/kosovo-organ-trafficking-scandal-widens-8604567.html>

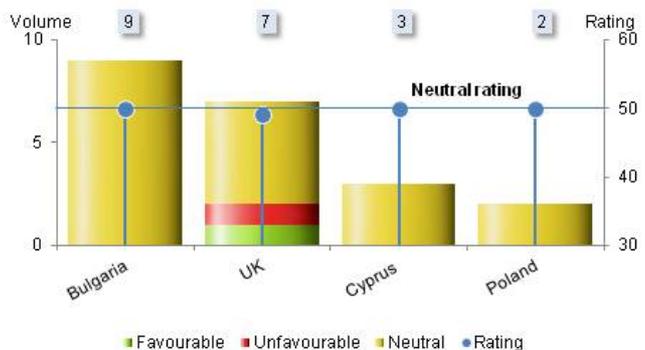
## Charts

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

Volume	28 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	10.7%
Unfavourable %	3.6%
Neutral %	85.7%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Rosen Plevneliev (President, Bulgaria)	4
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
Dimitar Tsanchev (Bulgarian Ambassador to the EU)	3
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2

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