

Key Quotes

Hungary committed to EU expansion in the Western Balkans. **"We have to find the ways in which we can best assist the Balkans countries,"** said the Hungarian State Secretary, Zsolt Németh, adding that all the six countries in the Western Balkans had a positive attitude towards Hungary (Borsod Online, Hungary, 13/5)

<http://www.boon.hu/ogy-nemeth-zsolt-magyarorszag-elkotelezett-az-eu-nyugat-balkani-bovites-mellett/2266850>

Summary

German and Turkish foreign ministers, Guido Westerwelle and Ahmet Davutoğlu, said that *"the EU and Turkey must move forward"*. (Tribune, FR, 13/5). They wanted *"new momentum"* in EU accession talks, citing *"major progress"* Turkey had made in promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law (elzoni.gr, EL, 13/5). The EU is planning the opening of a new negotiation chapter for the end of June. The German government is divided on the issue with the liberals in favour but the conservatives deeply split. Speedy progress is unlikely as Chancellor Angela Merkel on her visit to Ankara in February showed openness for talks but also expressed doubts over full membership. The SPD is also ready for intensified talks but doubts that the current government will be successful on this matter (Tagesspiegel, DE, 13/5). The parliamentary leadership of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats, released a statement Sunday demanding that Turkey *"must once and for all guarantee religious freedom"* if it wanted to join the EU (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 12/5). Davutoğlu commented that talks should resume quickly on Turkey's bid to join the European Union but voiced concern about rising anti-foreign sentiment in crisis-hit Europe: *"The EU started as a peace project, but the developments in recent years are a source of concern for all of us"* (focus-fen.net, BG, 12/5).

- Tribune, FR, 13/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130513/mi/item_156582868.pdf
- elzoni.gr, EL, 13/5, <http://www.elzoni.gr/html/ent/266/ent.34266.asp>
- Tagesspiegel, DE, 13/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130513/mi/item_156586610.pdf
- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 12/5, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-worried-rising-xenophobia-europe-154801666.html#FsyZIDu>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n306290>

Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić has urged Serbs living in northern Kosovo to accept an EU-brokered agreement on normalising relations between Belgrade and Pristina. Speaking during a visit to northern Kosovo on May 12, Vučić admitted the deal is not ideal (rferl.org, CZ, 13/5) but told Serb leaders in Kosovska Mitrovica *"I could list many reasons to oppose the agreement but there is an important point in its favour. It is the only way for Serbia to survive, to exist and remain united in the search for a path to a better future"* (bbc.co.uk, UK, 13/5).

- rferl.org, CZ, 13/5, <http://www.rferl.org/content/belgrade-urges-serbs-kosovo-deal/24984298.html>
- bbc.co.uk, UK, 13/5, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22506485>

There has been a considerable change in Slovenia since its entry into the EU; in 1997, according to a recent survey by Ernst & Young. When Slovenia was still negotiating its entry into the EU, it was considered a fair and exemplary country and the European Commission's review of the country concluded that there is no evidence of any major political corruption. The survey reveals that a different picture has surfaced in the subsequent 15 years, with Slovenia top of the list for corruption perceptions in the business world (Vecer, SI, 13/5).

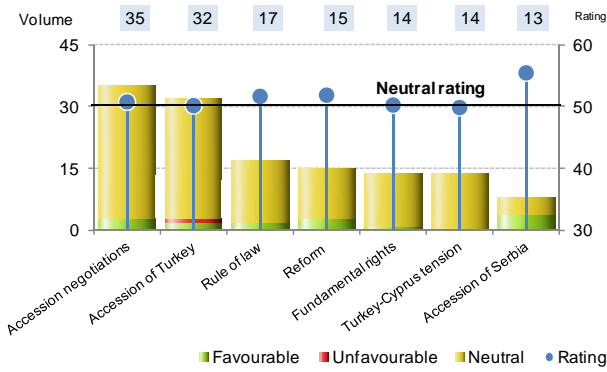
- Vecer, SI, 13/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130513/mi/item_156603186.pdf

In an opinion piece the MEP Gunnar Hökmark writes that the forthcoming EU accession of Croatia on 1 July will change not only Europe but also the once war-torn Balkans, resulting in an increasingly more stable and safe Europe with a greater capacity to contribute to a peaceful and democratic development in the Balkans. He says let Croatia be Croatia and Sweden be Sweden but let us be Europe together, making people free and strong (Nerikes-Allehanda, SE, 12/5).

- Nerikes-Allehanda, SE, 12/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130512/mi/item_156597210.pdf

Charts

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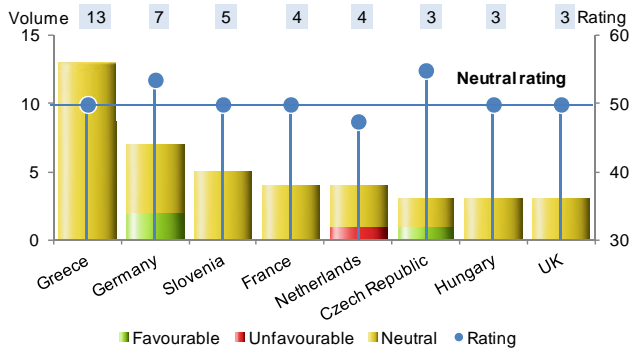
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Volume	51 items
Rating	51.6
Favourable %	17.6%
Unfavourable %	2.0%
Neutral %	80.4%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	28
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	27
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	15
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	4
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

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