

Key Quotes

The Bulgarian President, Rosen Plevneliev, was clear that despite the problems, **"the EU should not underestimate the great importance that the enlargement process has in the promotion of democratic values in the region of the Western Balkans and South-eastern Europe"** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 15/6)

<http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1783734>

German President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert is skeptical about Croatia's accession, because he does not **"share the view that all prerequisites have been met"** (Firmenpresse.de, Germany, 16/5)

<http://www.firmenpresse.de/pressinfo872622.html>

Summary

For the European Union a rapid implementation of the agreement between Serbia and Kosovo reached last April is of crucial importance, said the High Representative for Foreign Policy, Catherine Ashton. *"I have invited Prime Minister Dačić and Prime Minister Thaçi for a meeting next week, May 21"*- Ashton writes – *"to discuss joint steps they need to take to implement the April agreement"* (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 14/5). Meanwhile, the Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlăţean met his Serbian counterpart Ivan Mrkić, in Bucharest for a working visit. The Romanian-Serbian talks focused on the progress of bilateral cooperation in all areas, national minorities included, on Serbia's European perspective and the specific support Romania can lend the authorities in Belgrade. Mrkić relayed Serbia's gratitude for Romania not recognising the Republic of Kosovo. Corlăţean also said it is very important for Serbia to carry on the domestic reform process (nineoclock.ro, RO, 14/5).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 14/5, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/serbia/2013/05/14/Serbia-Kosovo-Ashton-Ue-cruciale-rapida-attuazione-accordo_8706022.html
- nineoclock.ro, RO, 14/5, <http://www.nineoclock.ro/fm-titus-corlatean-met-with-serbian-counterpart-ivan-mrki/>

The UK's The World Tonight programme analysed the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo, following the deal they agreed last month on their diplomatic relationship. The feature claims that the deal is *"dangerously close to collapse"* due to a reluctance of Kosovan Serbs to be governed by Pristina. The programme reported from Mitrovica, where local Serbs are expressing anger and betrayal at the new settlement (BBC Radio 4, UK, 14/5). *"I'd kill him if I could,"* shouts the shopkeeper, in the main town of northern Kosovo. Serbia's first deputy prime minister is the most popular politician in his home country, with an approval rating above 70%, but among the Serbs of north Kosovo, he is very unpopular. In April, Mr Vučić was one of the key figures behind the agreement to normalise relations that Serbia made with Kosovo. It covered a range of issues but the most controversial, and difficult to settle, was the future of north Kosovo's ethnic Serb population. Under last month's Brussels agreement the Serbs would have a degree of autonomy within the system of the main Republic of Kosovo. For people who still consider themselves Serbian - with car number plates, identity cards and school certificates all issued by Serbia - this is an unacceptable situation. *"Most of the people are afraid and feel betrayed by the Serbian government,"* says Aleksandar Arsić, a teacher at a vocational high school in Mitrovica. He went on *"They said they would protect us - but this is not the way to do it. (...)Some kind of bureaucrats - from the EU, Serbian government, from the Kosovo government - decided okay, we'll put the people from one state into another state without asking them how they feel. It's a nightmare, it's a bad dream"* (bbc.co.uk, UK, 14/5).

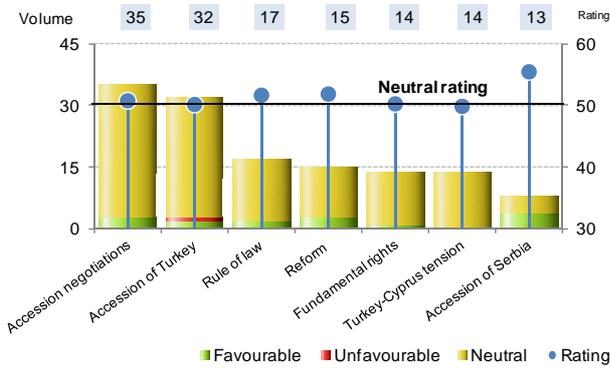
- BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 14/5, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130514/mi/2501-466907-001.mp3>
- bbc.co.uk, UK, 14/5, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22522257>

Concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nebojša Radmanović, the Serb member of the tripartite presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, speaking to Die Presse said that internal relations between entities and the constituting peoples cannot simply be changed because EU bureaucrats wish it so. He said that the European Commission often takes a very bureaucratic approach to enlargement efforts. Despite their complex decision-making process, the representatives of Bosnia's peoples act with one voice in EU talks, affirmed Mr Radmanović (Presse-Austria, AT, 15/5).

- Die Presse-Austria, AT, 15/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130515/mi/item_156808793.pdf

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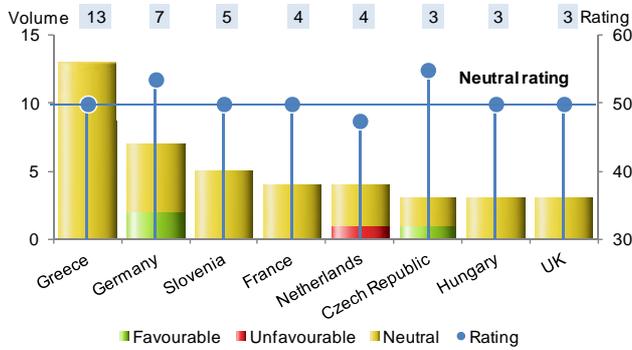
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Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	27
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	15
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	4
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

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