

Key Quotes

"Croatia supports the enlargement and it will try to provide political and technical help to its neighbours so that they join the EU as soon as possible," said Croatian President Ivo Josipović (Deutsche Welle, Germany, 16/5)

<http://www.dw.de/catherine-ashton-visits-croatia-ahead-of-its-eu-membership/a-16819822>

"Croatia's entry shows that the EU's attraction continues unbroken. Europe is not just about crisis. The European perspective is what drives reforms in our neighbourhood," Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle told the German Bundestag (Yahoo! UK, 16/5)

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/path-clear-croatias-eu-entry-germany-ratifies-treaty-171919451.html#RM7oBXb>

Summary

"The European integration of the region cannot be complete without Kosovo participating in the process", Bulgarian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marin Rayko said adding "The agreement signed in April to normalise relations between Priština and Belgrade gives us hope for the future of the two countries in the EU" (novinite.bg, BG, 15/5). Kosovo Prime Minister HashimThaçi was pleased with the achievement of closer relations between Serbia and Kosovo. In his view the good relations between the two countries are beneficial for the entire EU region (news.ibox.bg, BG, 15/5). Speaking after his meeting with Mr Thaçi, Bulgarian caretaker Prime Minister Marin Raykov emphasised the importance of Kosovo for the EU integration of the region (novinite.com, BG, 15/1).

- novinite.bg, BG, 15/5, <http://novinite.bg/articles/37925/Premierat-Evropskataka-integraciya-na-regiona-ne-moje-bez-Kosovo>
- news.ibox.bg, BG, 15/5, http://news.ibox.ba/news/id_1198466578
- novinite.com, BG, 15/1, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=150426

In an interview with Bulgarian National Radio, Mr Thaçi contrasted the situation of ethnic Albanians in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) and the Serbian minority in Kosovo saying "all the time we are encouraging Albanians in the fYRoM to be part of the institutions, part of the democratic life but I would like to note that 3% of Serbs in Kosovo have more rights than 35% of Albanians in the fYRoM" (focus-fen.net, BG, 16/5)

- focus-fen.net, BG, 16/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n306606>

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić said, after meetings with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Deputy Secretary of State William Burns on Wednesday, that the United States supports Serbia's European integration and that Belgrade's position has improved following the Brussels agreement with Priština (focus-news.net, BG, 16/5). When Serbia agreed to recognise the Kosovar government last month, the EU hailed it as a landmark moment for two nations. But on the ground, the old enmities remain. The Independent found "the EU-brokered deal was astonishing for who signed it: Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi is a former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), while his Serbian counterpart, Ivica Dačić, was spokesman to the Serb leader Slobodan Milošević during the war." (independent.co.uk, UK, 15/4). Albin Kurti, leader of Kosovo's Self-Determination party, the only party that opposed last month's agreement said that an agreement was needed that could show Serbia moving in the right direction, regardless of whether it solved any of Kosovo's problems. "I agree it is good if Serbia reorients towards Europe rather than Russia, but I don't agree that Kosovo should pay the price," and went on "Everything has been done to please Serbia. There is no legal recognition of Kosovo, no promise to deliver war criminals or pay war damages. And now they are getting this new Association of Serb Municipalities, which will render Kosovo dysfunctional" (Independent, UK, 16/5).

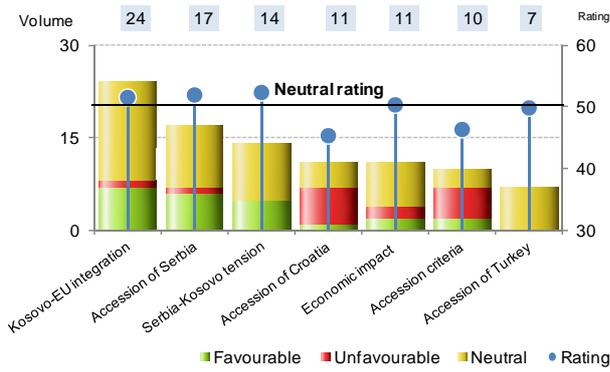
- focus-news.net, BG, 16/5, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1783948>
- independent.co.uk, UK, 15/4, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/the-deal-between-serbia-and-kosovo-that-changed-history-or-did-it-8617857.html>
- Independent, UK, 16/5, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/the-deal-between-serbia-and-kosovo-that-changed-history-or-did-it-8617857.html>

In a guest commentary in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, (DE, 16/5), Miroslav Lajčák, Foreign Minister of Slovakia, expresses his disappointment about Bosnia and Herzegovina being left out of the agreement between Kosovo and Serbia. Mr Lajčák feels it is his responsibility to show Bosnia and Herzegovina that its own engagement is the best way to enhanced prosperity, security and a stable position within Europe. So far, the government had neglected to follow the requirements set by the European Union and both citizens and politicians seem to be caught up in their conflict with each other.

- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 16/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130516/mi/item_156897984.pdf

Charts

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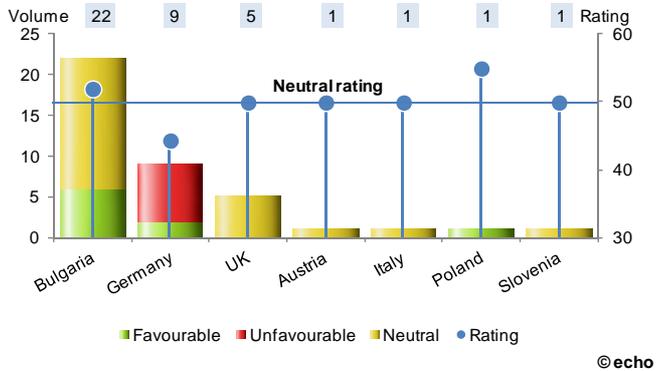


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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	18
Marin Raykov (Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	11
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Norbert Lammert (President of the Bundestag, Germany)	5
Valentin Bozhkov (CEO Executive Agency Automobile Administration, Bulgaria)	4
Rosen Plevneliev (President, Bulgaria)	3

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