

## Key Quotes

Iceland's new government vows EU referendum. *"We will not continue the accession talks with the European Union until after a referendum,"* a government policy document signed by the centrist-agrarian Progressive Party and the right-wing Independence Party said (Newsbeast.gr, Greece, 23/5)

<http://www.newsbeast.gr/world/arthro/535319/sumfonia-gia-to-shimatismo-kubernisis-stin-islandia/>

Nigel Farage, the leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party, said: *"Iceland clearly wants to protect its democracy, its fisheries and its economy"*, adding: *"This move by Iceland shows that the EU is more and more perceived as a failing political and economic project – a bit old hat really"* (Public Service Europe, UK, 22/5)

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3496/iceland-calls-off-eu-membership-talks>

*"Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) registers progress and is ready for the next stage of the European integration,"* Štefan Füle remarked (Focus News, Bulgaria, 23/5)

<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n307067>

## Summary

### European Union waiting for another breakthrough in Serbia-Kosovo talks

The Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo resumed talks on the implementation of the agreement on the normalisation of relations, initialled by the two in April, but failed to reach agreement. Serbian state television reported that Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaçi will resume talks (bnt.bg, BG, 22/5). Before travelling to Brussels, Dačić stressed that Serbia is doing everything in its power to adopt the agreement, which is a necessary condition for Serbia to get the date of accession negotiations with the EU (Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 22/5). Catherine Ashton stated before the meeting that the swift implementation of the agreement is crucial for further progress of both countries towards the EU. The leader of the Serbian delegation Marko Džurić noted the major stumbling block to be the insistence of Kosovo that Serbian institutions should be completely disbanded before forming communities of Serbian municipalities (Delo, SI, 22/5). The Belgrade government is meeting strong resistance from the nationalist opposition, the Kosovo Serbs and the Orthodox Church. (Die Rheinpfalz, DE, 21/5).

- bnt.bg, BG, 22/5, [http://bnt.bg/bg/news/view/101403/syrbija\\_i\\_kosovo\\_podnoviha\\_pregovorite](http://bnt.bg/bg/news/view/101403/syrbija_i_kosovo_podnoviha_pregovorite)
- Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 22/5, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130522/mi/item\\_157439226.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130522/mi/item_157439226.pdf)
- Delo, SI, 22/5, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130522/mi/item\\_157433447.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130522/mi/item_157433447.pdf)
- Die Rheinpfalz, DE, 21/5, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130521/mi/item\\_157377005.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130521/mi/item_157377005.pdf)

Serbia is looking to discuss a possible new precautionary loan with the International Monetary Fund once the Balkan nation wins the right to begin European Union membership talks, Prime Minister Ivica Dačić said, with the IMF waiting for an EU decision in June on whether Serbia will be given a start date now that a deal to normalise relations with Kosovo has been signed. *"The second half of the year will be more favourable for loan talks"* he commented after meeting executives of foreign companies in Serbia (parapolitika.gr, EL, 21/5)

- parapolitika.gr, EL, 21/5, <http://www.parapolitika.gr/ArticleDetails/tabid/63/ArticleID/593095/Daneio-apo-to-DNT-exetazei-i-Serbia.aspx>

### Worries over economic situation of Croatia

The more Croatia's accession to the EU approaches, the greater is the interest - and concern - of the financial markets and other EU states in the economic situation of the country. In Croatia itself the call is growing for more accountability for banks. Monetary policy and the banks are what keep Croatia's economic system and rating stable says Deputy Governor Vučić of the Croatian National Bank adding that the Croatian banks are safeguarded better than their parent companies abroad (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 22/5).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 22/5, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130522/mi/item\\_157445229.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130522/mi/item_157445229.pdf)

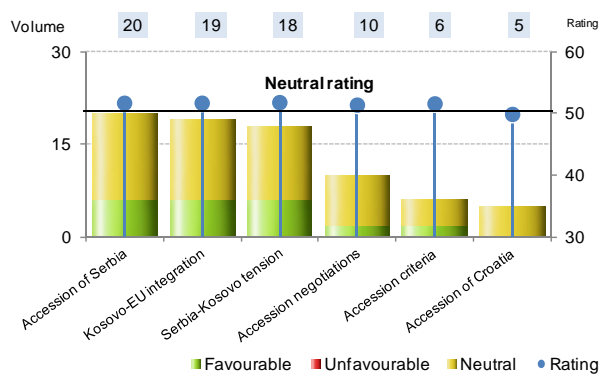
### Philip Reeker criticises political leaders of HDZ BiH and HDZ 1990

Philip Reeker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the US State Department, harshly criticised the political leaders of the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ BiH) and Croatian Democratic Union 1990 (HDZ 1990) as responsible for the stagnation of the country. *"Party leaders are holding hostage the future of the country by hiding the fact that the whole time they are implementing their own selfish political goals"* he stated, adding that leaders of political parties promise again and again that they will solve problems and then give up on their commitment. He quoted as an example the implementation of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the Sejdić-Finci case where Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken to waive provisions in the electoral law discriminating against minority representatives. The price of this failure is being paid by citizens who are increasingly facing lower standards of living said Mr Reeker and invited public opinion in Bosnia and Herzegovina to raise its voice and warn elected officials that they expect more from them, in particular before the election of 2014. (express.gr, EL, 21/5)

- express.gr, EL, 21/5, [http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/710902oz\\_20130521710902.php3](http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/710902oz_20130521710902.php3)

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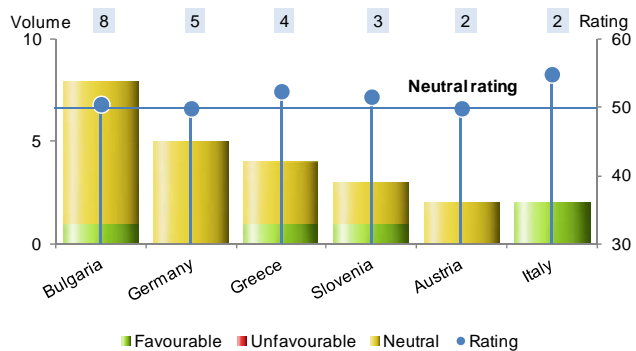
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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	16
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	13
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	13
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	5
Maja Kocijančič (Spokesperson for Catherine Ashton, EU)	3
Philip Reeker (Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, US State Department)	2

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