

Key Quotes

Serbian newspaper 'Blic' writes: **"The Serbian government has adopted an implementation plan of the agreement with Priština"** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 27/5)

<http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1787509>

Croatian President urges Britain to remain in the EU. **"The reason for us to enter is the same as yours is to stay,"** said Croatia's president, Ivo Josipović during a visit to London. **"It is a great opportunity. I always ask the critics what Greece would look like without the EU. I am a Euro-optimistic"** (guardian.co.uk, UK, 24/5)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/may/24/croatia-president-josipovic-british-remain-eu>

Summary

Serbia and Russia to sign strategic partnership

Following on from what the EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, called the historic agreement between Serbia and Kosovo (focus-news.net, BG, 24/4). Serbia and Russia are due to sign an agreement on a strategic partnership. The document is scheduled to be signed by President Vladimir Putin and his Serb counterpart Tomislav Nikolić in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. Serbian media say the agreement calls for the strengthening of ties in a number of areas, including business, trade, and infrastructure projects. It also backs closer political cooperation, especially on the issue of Kosovo, whose 2008 declaration of independence has been recognised by neither Serbia nor Russia (rferl.org, CZ, 24/4).

- focus-news.net, BG, 24/4, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1786790>
- rferl.org, CZ, 24/4, <http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-serbia-strategic-agreement/24995819.html>

Iceland will not join EU in foreseeable future

The new centre-right coalition, presented in Reykjavik after three weeks of government negotiations, has shelved accession negotiations with Brussels and **"will resume them only following a referendum - and a date for such a referendum has not been set"** (Die Presse, AT, 24/5).

- Die Presse, AT, 24/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130524/mi/item_157657773.pdf

Political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ongoing

Ongoing political crisis makes integration prospects of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's more remote, EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle told the European Parliament on Thursday. **"There are grave concerns over the effects of last winter's political crisis"**, the commissioner said. **"While the March accord has made room for the opposition both in parliament and in local elections, other elements have not been implemented"**. Füle suggested that the fruits of the accord between the majority and the opposition have been slow in ripening, and **"the limited political dialogue raises doubts as to the will to implement it"**. He held up Serbia and Kosovo as an example to follow saying **"Where there is a political will, solutions can be found"** (ansamed.info, IT, 23/5). Kathimerini (EL, 24/5) reported that the European Parliament had approved the commencement of accession negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with an overwhelming majority. MEP Marietta Giannakou called on Commissioner Füle to condemn the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's policy on the name issue and its persistent adherence to myths and fabrications. However, Bulgarian MEP Evgeni Kirilov said **"The name issue is not the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's major problem but rather the extreme nationalistic rhetoric and the policy of the current government"** (focus-fen.net, BG, 23/5).

- ansamed.info, IT, 23/5, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/05/23/Macedonia-EU-Commissioner-Fule-concerned-status-quo_8753365.html
- Kathimerini, EL, 24/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130524/mi/item_157657403.pdf
- focus-fen.net, BG, 23/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n307092>

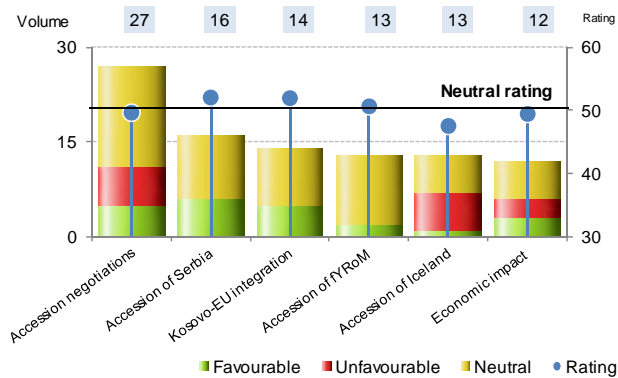
First official visit to Turkish capital by President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy

During his visit Van Rompuy met the country's president, Abdullah Gül, and its prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and said it was time to rebuild momentum in the relationship between Turkey and the EU (publicserviceeurope.com, UK, 24/5). Turkey is no longer an applicant, but has become a partner of equal rank to the EU reported wiadomosci.gazeta.pl (PL, 23/5). Turkish EU Minister Egemen Bağış commented **"Turkey is not simply a candidate for European Union membership, but is a candidate for the union's leadership"**. He said Istanbul's unique status with **"peaceful coexistence of all cultures and religions"** makes it a vital player in the EU membership process (politisnews.eu, EL, 23/5).

- publicserviceeurope.com, UK, 24/5, <http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3504/van-rompuy-sees-concrete-steps-in-turkeys-eu-bid>
- wiadomosci.gazeta.pl, PL, 23/5, http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114877,13964113,Turcja_rozmawia_o_wejsciu_do_UE_ale_chce_byc_autonomiczny_m.htm
- politisnews.eu, EL, 23/5, <http://www.politisnews.eu/cqbin/hweb?-A=236340&-V=articles>

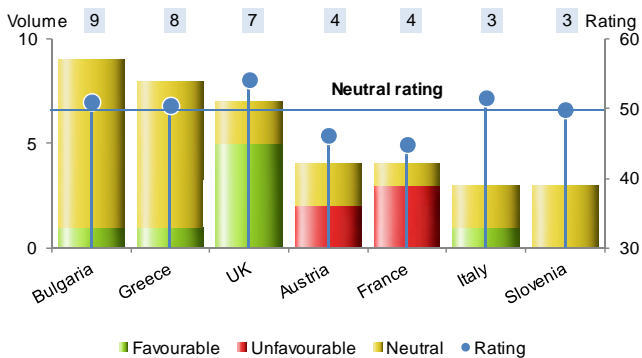
Charts

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Volume	49 items
Rating	50.3
Favourable %	20.4%
Unfavourable %	14.3%
Neutral %	65.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Richard Howitt (MEP)	7
Doris Pack (MEP)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson (Prime Minister, Iceland)	4
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	3

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