

Key Quotes

US and EU concerned by violent police raid against Taksim Gezi Park protesters. Peter Stano said: **"The European Commission is concerned about the recurring clashes between police and demonstrators in Istanbul. We condemn all excessive and disproportionate use of force"** (Metrogreece, Greece, 1/6)

<http://www.metrogreece.gr/ArticleDetails/tabid/82/ArticleID/336988/Default.aspx>

Summary

Economic impact of Croatian accession

Croatia is preparing to enter the European Union on July 1, but tough economic times mean that many Croatians are wary of celebrating. However Stipe Mesić, one of the architects of Zagreb's EU membership bid, was looking on the bright side, *"July 1 will mark the end of a long journey. (...) We definitely moved away from narrow-minded nationalism that marked the first years of our independence and accepted European standards"* (realitatea.net, RO, 31/5). But Croatia's accession will impact more widely. When Croatia joins neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina will lose its main market for its farming exports. And without it, the country's already fragile economy may falter. Bosnia and Herzegovina is not permitted to sell food to EU nations because the country's ethnically divided government cannot agree on how to meet EU hygiene codes. Andy McGuffie, a spokesperson with the EU's delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said more progress should have been made by now in dealing with Bosnia and Herzegovina's agricultural exports. He said an export gap would be inevitable when Croatia joins the EU's other 27 members on July 1, and added that it's still up to Bosnia and Herzegovina's politicians to at least mitigate that damage. *"It has not been a secret that Croatia was looking to join the European Union"* McGuffie said. *"It is down to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to decide how long that gap of time is. It is within their power, I think, to get on with the legislative changes, establish systems and work out an agreement as to how the system is going to work"* (dw.de, DE, 30/5).

- realitatea.net, RO, 31/5, http://www.realitatea.net/dificultatile-economice-umbresc-sarbatoarea-de-aderare-la-ue-a-croatiei_1193780.html
- dw.de, DE, 30/5, <http://www.dw.de/croatias-eu-membership-spells-trouble-for-bosnias-farmers/a-16849517>

UK Foreign Secretary's visit to Serbia

William Hague is visiting Belgrade to offer encouragement to Serbia at a crucial moment in its progress towards EU membership and said *"The UK remains a strong supporter of enlargement of the EU to include all countries in the Western Balkans. Since I was last in Belgrade in October 2012, Serbia has made significant progress in normalising its relations with Kosovo and coming closer to meeting the European Council's criteria. This was shown most clearly by the historic agreement with Kosovo, reached on 19 April"*, (gov.uk, UK, 30/5). In Serbia, politics is eagerly looking towards the big turning point - it's about the start of negotiations for EU accession. *"The prospect of EU membership is an important signal for investors"* said Prime Minister Ivica Dačić (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 31/5).

- gov.uk, UK, 30/5, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-urges-serbia-to-continue-its-eu-progress>
- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 31/5, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130531/mi/item_158330053.pdf

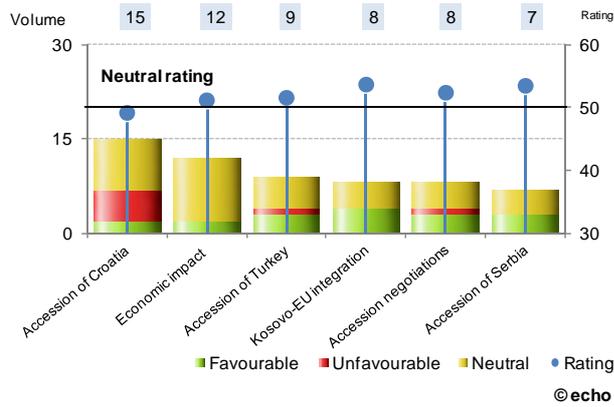
Füle visit to former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle arrived on a visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on May 31. Füle visited Ohrid, taking part in the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of countries in South-east Europe. The forum was also attended by Kosovo Foreign Minister Enver Hoxhaj, after the Serbian authorities said they were not against his attendance (focus-news.net, BG, 31/5).

- focus-news.net, BG, 31/5, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1789224>

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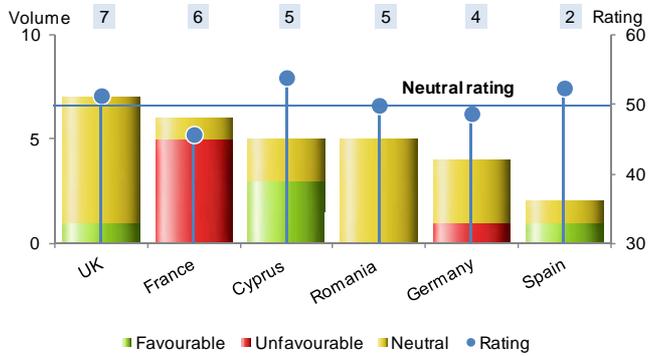


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