

Key Quotes

Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić said that unless the EU encourages Serbia, the implementation of the Brussels agreement will be hampered: *"Unless the EU gives us some encouragement, many paths we have been patiently building over the last year will be closed,"* Nikolić said (Ideal Digital, Spain, 10/6)

http://www.ideal.es/agencias/20130610/mas-actualidad/internacional/belgrado-advierde-problemas-kosovo-apoya_201306101957.html

Summary

Turkey protests and the EU

In an opinion piece in the Times (UK, 10/6), former UK Foreign Secretary and co-chairman of the British-Turkish Forum, Jack Straw, commented that as he listened to Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, speak at a conference on Turkey's future relations with the European Union the atmosphere seemed surreal. He was in a luxury hotel to discuss the European project, while the whole of Europe (and the world) was watching events less than a mile away (and about 3,000 police officers) in Taksim Square and Gezi Park. The irony is that it has been the AKP's embrace of EU membership that has so raised democratic expectations in Turkey. A second irony is that those reforms would have been much further advanced had France, Germany and the Greek-Cypriots not wilfully blocked progress on Turkey's accession plans. Turkey has been judged more harshly than, for example, Romania and Hungary, where the EU wisely recognised that the quicker these countries came into the fold, the greater the change for the better would be. At last, under EU Commissioner Štefan Füle, the negotiations may now be more constructive. However Commissioner Füle and EU Parliament President, Martin Schulz have sharply criticised the police intervention and said that the practices were incompatible with EU membership. Meanwhile, the protests against Erdoğan are spreading. During the weekend, thousands of fans of Istanbul's three big football clubs joined the protesters (Oberösterreichische-Nachrichten, AT, 10/6).

- Times, UK, 10/6, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130607/mi/2501-473056-001.mp4>
- Oberösterreichische-Nachrichten, AT, 10/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130610/mi/item_159232903.pdf

Croatia - EU entry without euphoria

Croatia will become an EU member on 1 July, but its economy is currently in a free fall. While the European Commission and all EU governments believe that the country will be able to compete at the *"highly competitive"* domestic markets, many experts warn against Croatia becoming the EU's next problem child. However, economic recovery can be achieved if reforms are implemented. Croatia has privatised some industry after demands by the European Commission, but as Romania and Bulgaria demonstrated, the will to reform significantly decreases after EU accession (Welt, DE, 8/6). It is EU entry without euphoria, writes Richard Swartz in his column in Svenska Dagbladet (SE, 8/6), but Croatia would not make it on its own in the long run. As entry into the EU draws near, worries about how the country's small export industry will handle the competition from the other Member States increases. But then again the everyday consumer will be better off. Nevertheless, the EU is now perceived by many Croatians as a sort of forced necessity.

- Welt, DE, 8/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130608/mi/item_159115323.pdf
- Svenska Dagbladet SE, 8/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130608/mi/item_159228278.pdf

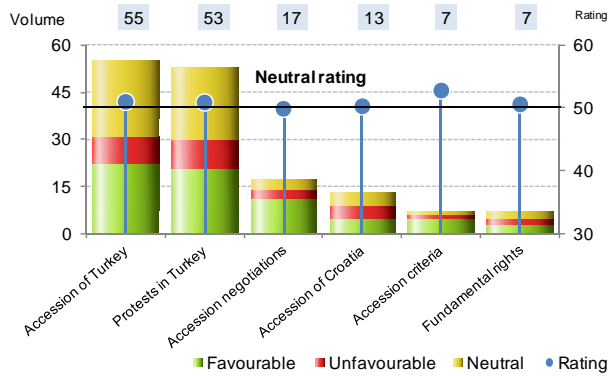
Serbian and Kosovo expert group meetings

The meetings of Serbian and Kosovo expert groups working on harmonising the details of the Brussels agreement on normalisation of bilateral relations have so far brought no progress, Delo (SI, 8/6) reports. Belgrade and Pristina now accuse each other of hindering the beginning of the implementation of the agreement. Its main aim is to abolish the current parallel Serbian structures and to integrate them into the administrative framework of Kosovo, but it is interpreted differently by both parties. Serbian PM Ivica Dačić has already called on Brussels to assume the role of intermediary and help solve the dispute.

- Delo, SI, 8/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130608/mi/item_159231697.pdf

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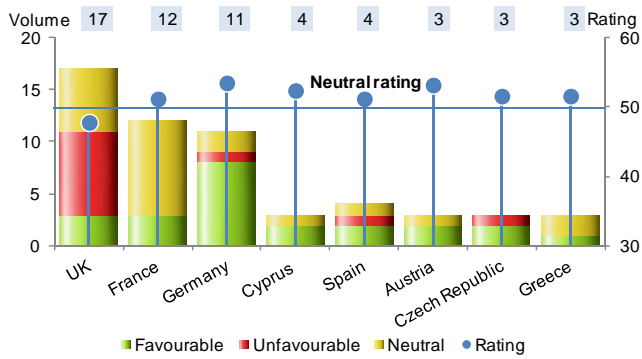
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Volume	69 items
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Unfavourable %	18.8%
Neutral %	42.1%

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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	49
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	45
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	12
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5

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