

Key Quotes

The European Union aims to bring new life into the stalled accession talks with Turkey. **"We are working towards opening a new negotiating chapter later this month,"** said a spokeswoman for the Irish Presidency (Donau Kurier, DE, 11/6)

<http://www.donaukurier.de/nachrichten/topnews/D-EU-Tuerkei-Erweiterung-UeS-EU-will-neues-Beitrittskapitel-mit-der-Tuerkei-eroeffnen;art154776,2769793>

"We expect a date for the beginning of accession negotiations to be set at the EU summit in June," Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said (ANSamed, IT, 11/6)

http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/serbia/2013/06/11/Italia-Serbia-Vucic-Roma-rafforziamo-collaborazione_8852636.html

Summary

Despite protests Brussels wants to open negotiations with Turkey

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton on Sunday called for a fast solution to the Turkish crisis and requested both the opposition and supporters of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to demonstrate self-control, as tension remains high (sigmalive.com, CY, 10/6). Turkish police forces violently intervened against demonstrators in the Turkish capital of Ankara. Police used water cannon, tear gas and batons to scatter thousands of demonstrators. In light of the protests, the EU has reminded the Turkish government that there is connection between the opposition and the desire of Turkey to join the EU (sta.si, SI, 10/6). EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle commented *"Energising the EU accession process and strengthening democracy by respecting rights and freedoms are two sides of the same coin"* (mittelbayerische.de, DE, 10/6). Notwithstanding the EU wants to bring the faltering negotiations with Turkey of recent years back on track. EU foreign ministers are expected to start new rounds of negotiations on 26 June - for the first time in nearly three years. However, Angela Merkel rejects a full EU membership (Handelsblatt, DE, 11/6).

- sigmalive.com, CY, 10/6, <http://www.sigmalive.com/news/international/49697>
- sta.si, SI, 10/6, <http://www.sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1895240>
- mittelbayerische.de, DE, 10/6, <http://www.mittelbayerische.de/index.cfm?pid=10015&pk=925397>
- Handelsblatt, DE, 11/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130611/mi/item_159322624.pdf

Serbia/Kosovo agreement irreversible and unstoppable

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has urged Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi to swiftly implement a deal to normalise ties between Kosovo and Serbia. In a statement, the White House said Biden *"underscored the importance of implementing the agreement fully and expeditiously to take advantage of this historic opportunity to secure peace and prosperity for the people of Kosovo and Serbia and to advance the European aspirations of both countries."* Speaking to RFE/RL after he met with Biden June 10 in Washington, Thaçi called the agreement *"irreversible, unstoppable, and a vital process"* adding *"There is a tendency to delay [on the Serbian side], but I am sure the implementation will happen."* Thaçi's Serbian counterpart, Ivica Dačić, told reporters in Belgrade on June 10 that his government would feel cheated if it did not soon receive a date for the beginning of talks (rferl.org, CZ, 11/6). Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaçi will have two meetings in June to overcome problems with the realisation of the agreement. Both prime ministers will meet once again in Brussels with the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, in order to discuss implementation. Naftemporiki (GR, 11/6) comments that Ms Ashton will help the two sides to find a common language.

- rferl.org, CZ, 11/6, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-serbia-biden/25013067.html>
- Naftemporiki, GR, 11/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130611/mi/item_159335254.pdf

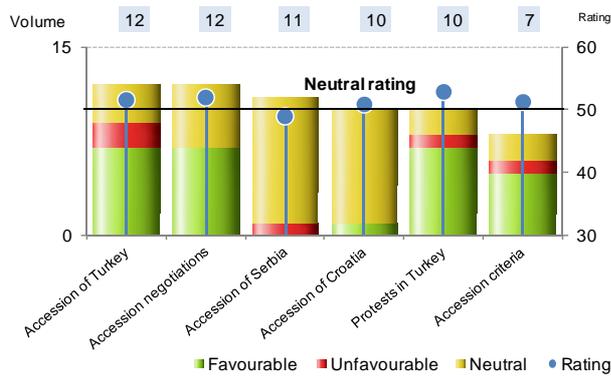
Slovenian government agrees protection against Croatian workers

Based on its forecasts the Slovenian government has decided Croatian workers will need work permits for two years after the accession of Croatia to the EU, Dnevnik (SI, 11/6) reports. While only a temporary solution, it is described as *"an act of desperation"* by Romana Zidar from the Faculty of Social Work at a time of record unemployment. Goran Lukič of the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia believes that it would be more prudent for the state to ensure equality for foreign workers to ensure employers follow collective agreements, regularly pay their employees and prevent wage dumping. The paper also notes that employers themselves are not enthusiastic about the government's decision.

- Dnevnik, SI, 11/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130611/mi/item_159336760.pdf

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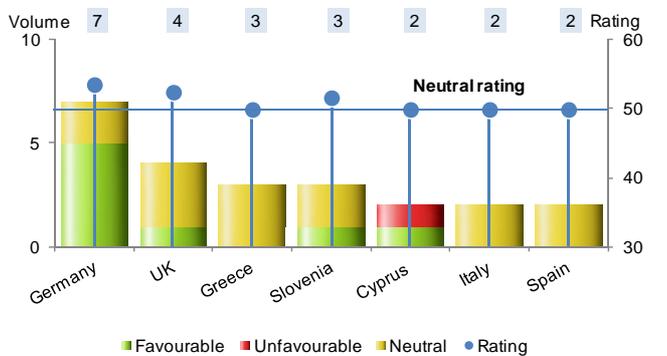
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	9
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	6
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	4
Jose Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	2
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	2
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	2
Donald Tusk (Prime Minister, Poland)	2

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