

Key Quotes

Two months since Serbia and Kosovo agreed to normalise relations, implementation of the accord has barely started just days before European leaders are due to decide whether they merit closer EU ties. Kosovo's negotiator Edita Tahiri blamed Serbia for "**continuing to unilaterally interpret the accord**" and "**failing to show needed seriousness in negotiations**" (<http://eubusiness.com/eubusiness.com>, UK, 19/6)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/serbia-kosovo.p8x/>

Election in Albania. "**We will continue to closely monitor preparations for the elections, stressing the need to keep them in line with international and European standards,**" EU Foreign Affairs Representative Catherine Ashton and EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said in a joint statement (To Vima, GR, 19/6)

<http://www.tovima.gr/world/article/?aid=518423>

Summary

Violent suppression of anti-government demonstrations in Turkey

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said "*like many others I am, quite simply, appalled*" adding "*I would like to see those who have criticisms, different opinions and a different idea of society, having some space*" (Lidove, CZ, 18/6). Despite the German Chancellor's strong criticism, Bulent Arinc, Turkey's deputy prime minister, said elements of the armed forces could be deployed to quell the anti-government protests. Mrs Merkel said "*What's happening in Turkey at the moment is not in line with our idea of the freedom to demonstrate or freedom of speech. There were horrible images in which one could see that the approach was much too harsh in my view*" (Daily Telegraph, UK, 18/6). Austrian Foreign Minister, Michael Spindelegger said in an interview with the Kurier (AT, 18/6) that he is alarmed about the way protesters are treated in Turkey, calling upon the Turkish government to respect basic rights. He said the EU needs to have a clear stance and make it obvious to Ankara that guaranteeing these basic and human rights is a core aspect of the European community of values and a necessary requirement for a rapprochement between Turkey and the EU. However, Luxembourg's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn wants to open a new chapter in the accession talks with Turkey as planned. He said anything else was a "*defeat for the Turkish people.*" Furthermore, he continues to believe that a country with an Islamic background, such as Turkey, can develop into a "*true democracy.*" Meanwhile, the Federal Government has said it doubts that it will be possible to open chapter 22, as planned by the Irish Presidency. A spokesperson for the Irish Presidency said it was Ireland's goal to keep the accession process going. The European Parliament is also divided (Der Tagesspiegel, DE, 18/6).

- Lidove, CZ, 18/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130618/mi/item_160011034.pdf
- Daily Telegraph, UK, 18/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130618/mi/item_160014849.pdf
- Kurier, AT, 18/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130618/mi/item_160023439.pdf
- Der Tagesspiegel, DE, 18/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130618/mi/item_160009757.pdf

European Commissioner Štefan Füle travels to Istanbul to meet demonstrators in Taksim Square

In an interview, Füle said he had felt positive signs of democracy in Turkey. Mr Füle emphasised that he "*expects the Turkish government to follow the rule of law*" and that it will ensure that "*rights and freedoms are being secured.*" Furthermore, Mr Füle said he hoped the recent developments would not affect the accession negotiations negatively but added that he regarded it as "*rather troubling*" to open a new chapter if there was no dialogue with peaceful protestors and violence against them. However, he said that the accession talks are an important instrument to have Turkey implement reforms following the European role-model (MDR-Info, DE, 17/6).

- MDR-Info, DE, 17/6, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130617/mi/2501-475269-001.mp3>

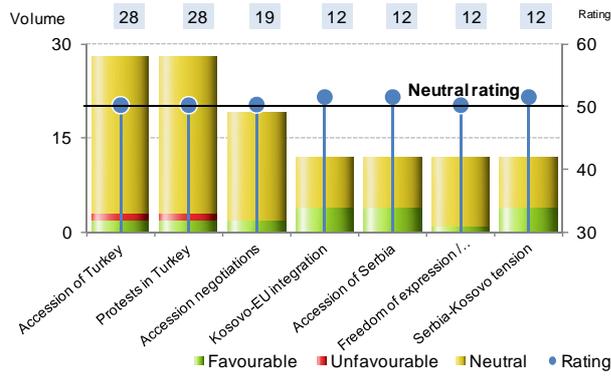
Symbolic step for Balkan foes

Serbia and its former province of Kosovo have exchanged envoys for the first time since their 1998-99 war, a step loaded with symbolism for the Balkan neighbours as the European Union considers whether to set Belgrade on the path to membership. Dubbed liaison officers, the officials will help with the implementation of the landmark accord brokered by the EU to improve ties between the two countries, five years after Kosovo declared independence from Serbia with the backing of the West (The Scotsman, UK, 18/6). Spokeswoman for EU High Foreign Affairs Representative Catherine Ashton, Maja Kocijancic, confirmed the next round of high-level talks take place on Thursday in the Belgian capital. Ashton "*will meet with Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi on June 20. They will discuss progress made in implementing the April accord based on the plan (of action) both parties adopted last month*" (ansamed.ansa.it, 17/5).

- The Scotsman, UK, 18/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130618/mi/item_160014360.pdf
- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 17/6, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/nations/kosovo/2013/06/17/Kosovo-EU-FM-Ashton-praises-liaison-officer-exchange_8884960.html

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



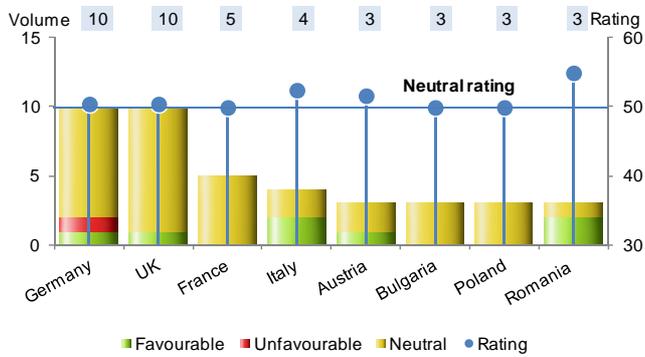
©echo

ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	46 items
Rating	51
Favourable %	17.4%
Unfavourable %	2.2%
Neutral %	80.4%

©echo

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



©echo

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	17
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	15
Dejan Pavićević (Serbian envoy to Kosovo)	9
Lulzim Peci (Kosovan envoy to Serbia)	9
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	8
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	6

©echo

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.