

Key Quotes

Kosovo liaison to Serbia resigns over dispute with PM. Kosovo's liaison officer to Serbia Lulzim Peci said in the interview that **"full normalisation of relations"** between Kosovo and Serbia would come only when Belgrade **"recognises the independence of our country."** **"I was convinced that the state policy of our country about the full normalisation of relations with Belgrade has been the recognition by Serbia, but it seems that this is not so,"** Peci said in his letter (<http://eubusiness.com/eubusiness.com>, UK, 19/6) <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/kosovo-serbia.p9v/>

Iceland suspends the accession negotiations with the EU. Iceland's foreign minister, Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, said: **"This is the way democracy works"** (Informazione.it, IT, 20/6) <http://fai.informazione.it/p/B8CCA57A-158C-4EA9-9942-8A4F522D3D48/Cosi-funziona-la-democrazia-L-Islanda-sospende-i-negoziati-di-adesione-con-l-Ue>

Summary

Serbia - gearing up to start accession negotiations

Lithuania on Tuesday became the final European Union member to ratify a trade and aid accord with Serbia, a move that could help Belgrade's bid to join the bloc. Lawmakers in the Baltic state, which takes over the rotating six-month EU presidency on July 1, approved the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, considered a first official step towards EU membership. (eubusiness.com, UK, 18/6). There was support for Serbian membership from Italy where Foreign Minister, Emma Bonino, said Italy will do everything it can to ensure that a clear date is set for Serbia's EU membership talks at the 27-28 June EU summit. Speaking after talks with her Serbian counterpart Ivan Mrkić, the minister underlined the need to recognise the courageous choices and decisions made by Serbia on the issue of reforms and dialogue with Priština and emphasised that no further conditions could be asked of Belgrade by Brussels (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 18/6). She added *"the opening of accession negotiations to the EU will provide access to EU funds, and initiate new opportunities and investments, especially in the energy and infrastructure sectors"* (La Stampa, IT, 19/6).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 18/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/lithuania-serbia.p86>
- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 18/6, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/06/18/Serbia-Italy-wants-date-membership-talks-EU-summit_8891620.html
- La Stampa, IT, 19/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130619/mi/item_160123125.pdf

Cancelled visit to Turkey

Following Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's verbal attack on the European Parliament, the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has postponed its June 19-20 visit. The announcement was made by the head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in a statement which noted that *"in the face of the declarations made by representatives of the government of Turkey the committee has decided to postpone its visit. I regret this"* adding *"Turkey is and remains an important partner for the EU but should understand how to deal with criticism. We will pursue contacts with our counterparts in Turkey to re-establish a constructive dialogue with them."* The EU-Turkey inter-parliamentary delegation meeting scheduled for June 27 in Brussels will be held as planned. The next meeting for EU-Turkey membership talks will be held on June 26 in Brussels for the opening of the chapter on regional politics (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 18/6). According to Philelefteros (CY, 19/6) the Turkish government slammed the door to a delegation of MEPs from the EP Foreign Affairs (AFET) Committee, giving them a first taste of the stance it would maintain if the accession negotiation chapter on Regional Policy does not open on 26 June.

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 18/6, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2013/06/18/Turkey-EU-Parliament-postpones-visit-Erdogan-comments_8889475.html
- Philelefteros, CY, 19/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130619/mi/item_160128504.pdf

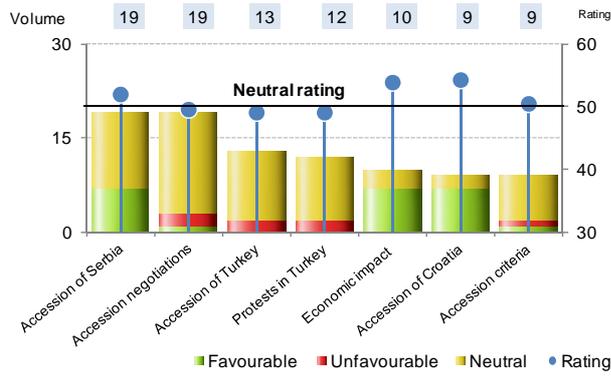
No Croatian miracle

In an interview with AFP, Ivo Josipović, the Croatian President, said *"The 1st of July is an important date, the first day of a new era for Croatia ... historically, psychologically, politically, it will be the first day of a European Croatia."* The president is however realistic about what the EU can do, saying that membership of the bloc itself would not generate any miracles. Josipović said 11.7 billion euros of potential EU financial aid should help the Croatian economy get stronger and competitive, but that it is up to Croatia to modernise its economy to survive, with or without the EU. Tough demands made by Brussels in exchange for membership have turned the mood more Eurosceptic (eubusiness.com, UK, 19/6).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 19/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/croatia-enlarge.p8w/>

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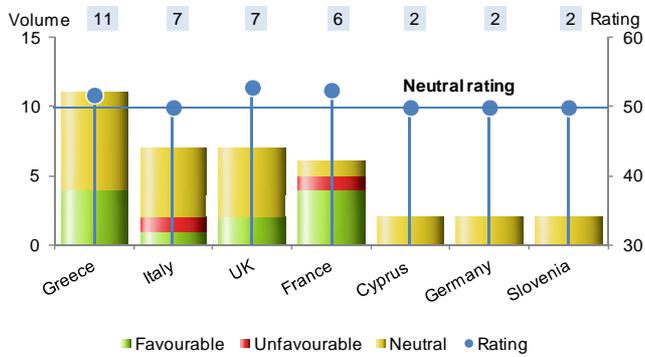
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Volume	39 items
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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	9
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5
Karolos Papoulias (President, Greece)	5

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