

## Key Quotes

Germany blocks start of EU-Turkey talks. **"If Mrs. Merkel is looking for domestic political material for her elections, that material should not be Turkey,"** Turkey's EU minister Egemen Bağış told reporters on Thursday (RINF.com, UK, 21/6)

<http://rinf.com/alt-news/breaking-news/qermany-blocks-start-of-eu-turkey-talks/43897/>

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton says Serbia and Kosovo have made **"concrete progress"** toward normalising their relations. **"With a view to the meeting of the council and the European Council next week, I will now inform the member states about the progress in the implementation of the April agreement, confirming that concrete steps towards a visible and sustainable improvement of relations between the two sides were taken,"** she added (rferl.org, CZ, 21/6)

<http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-serbia-eu-ashton-relations/25023577.html>

## Summary

### Resignation of Kosovo's liaison officer to Serbia

Independent Kosovo's first envoy to Serbia resigned on Wednesday, pre-empting his dismissal just two days into the job for exceeding his powers and making remarks likely to irritate Belgrade. Serbia and its former southern province exchanged official representatives, known officially as liaison officers, on Monday under a push by the European Union to improve ties between the Balkan neighbours. The rapprochement is key to Serbia's bid to start membership talks with the 27-nation EU, which is due to make a decision on opening negotiations on June 28. In acting fast, and quickly naming a replacement, Kosovo appeared to signal that it did not want the incident to damage these reconciliation efforts (uk.reuters.com, UK, 19/6). The resignation, sent in a letter to Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga, came just a day before Hashim Thaçi was to meet with his Serbian counterpart Ivica Dačić in Brussels to discuss further implementation of the EU-brokered Belgrade-Priština accord on normalisation of relations between the two former foes (eubusiness.com, UK, 19/6). Meanwhile the European Commission has given a "yellow card" to the Serbian government for the delay in the passage of a law for media (express.gr, GR, 19/6).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 19/6, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/19/uk-kosovo-serbia-idUKBRE95I1FP20130619>
- eubusiness.com, UK, 19/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/kosovo-serbia.p9v/>
- express.gr, GR, 19/6, [http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/716800oz\\_20130619716800.php3](http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/716800oz_20130619716800.php3)

### Amendment to restructuring plan for 3.Maj

The European Commission has authorised under EU state aid rules an amendment to the restructuring plan for 3.Maj, one of the Croatian shipyards in difficulty. The EU Commission concluded that any distortion of competition that may arise from the modest increase in the total amount of restructuring aid would be offset by the additional compensatory measures proposed by Croatia. This clears the way for the privatisation of the yard by 1 July 2013, the date of Croatia's EU accession, as required by the Act of Accession (ansamed.info, IT, 19/6).

- ansamed.info, IT, 19/6, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/croatia/2013/06/19/Croatia-EU-ok-restructuring-plan-shipyard-3-Maj\\_8894172.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/croatia/2013/06/19/Croatia-EU-ok-restructuring-plan-shipyard-3-Maj_8894172.html)

### Bosnian / Croatian Trade

Officials from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have signed a border management accord that will allow Bosnian citizens and products to continue crossing the Croatian border after Zagreb adheres to the European Union on July 1. Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić and Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija and Prime Minister Vjekoslav Bevanda from Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the accord in Brussels. EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle and EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy Tonio Borg were also present. The accord is **"a milestone for the Balkans and will impact the daily lives of citizens, especially those living within five kilometres of the borders"** Füle said. The deal eases restrictions on products coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina's Neum Port and extends what Füle called a rare exception to EU rules to Croatia's Tolero Port, which Bosnia and Herzegovina can continue to use to export its food and agricultural products to third countries. **"Commercial traffic from Bosnia must adapt to the fact that Croatia will become an EU member state. I invite Bosnia to speed up its food security practices oversight"** Füle said (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 20/6).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 20/6, [http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/06/20/EU-Bosnia-Croatia-sign-border-control-accord\\_8899276.html](http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/06/20/EU-Bosnia-Croatia-sign-border-control-accord_8899276.html)

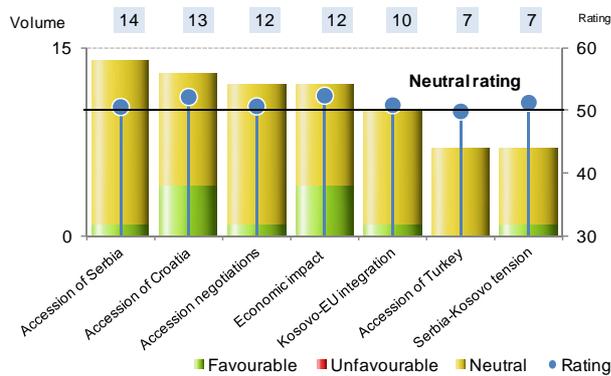
### Elections in Albania

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

- philnews.com, CY, 19/6, <http://www.philnews.com/el-gr/eidiseis-kosmos/47/150102/test-dimokratias-kai-evropaikis-prooptikis-oi-ekloges-stin-alvania>

# Charts

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by volume, favourability & rating



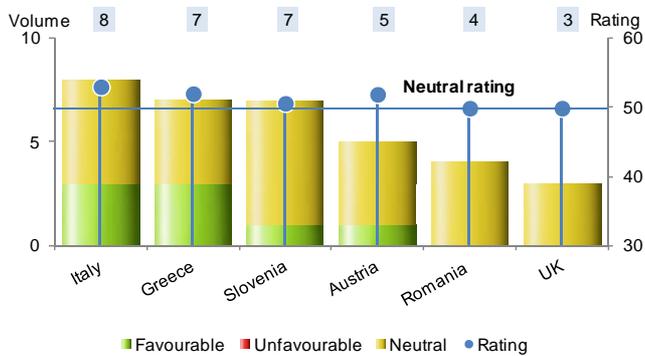
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<b>Volume</b>	41 items
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<b>Unfavourable %</b>	0%
<b>Neutral %</b>	78%

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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	8
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Dr Sali Berisha (Prime Minister, Albania)	4
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	4
Edi Rama (Albanian politician)	4
Lulzim Peci (Kosovan envoy to Serbia)	4

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