

Key Quotes

Albanian leader concedes defeat. The European Commission urged Albania's rival parties to work together. **"Now, more than ever, cross-party cooperation is needed to ensure a smooth transition to the incoming government,"** said a spokesman for EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle. **"Prime Minister Berisha's announcement is an important step towards this goal. There are many challenges ahead which will demand immediate attention"** (Reuters, UK, 26/6)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/26/uk-albania-election-idUKBRE95P16620130626>

Summary

Further EU-Turkey membership talks postponed for four months

EU foreign ministers have backed a German proposal to postpone further EU membership talks with Turkey for about four months. The EU-Turkey talks had been scheduled to resume this Wednesday but Germany, Austria and the Netherlands criticised Turkey's crackdown on anti-government protests. An EU Commission report on Ankara's progress last October highlighted numerous concerns about democracy and human rights (bbc.co.uk, UK, 25/6). Irish Foreign Minister Eamon Gilmore said *"I believe that the EU accession process is the most effective tool we have in influencing the reform agenda in Turkey"* (Volkskrant, NE, 26/6). Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu said *"I hope we will not go through such crisis again and that the Turkey - EU train will move to reach its target in the quickest way"* (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 26/6).

- bbc.co.uk, UK, 25/6, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23044600>
- Volkskrant, NE, 26/6, (link not available)
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 26/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130626/mi/item_160924690.pdf

Serbia and Kosovo closer to Europe

European Union ministers on Tuesday unanimously recommended that Serbia begin EU membership negotiations by the very latest in January 2014. A formal decision to open EU-Serbia talks will be handed down on Friday by EU heads of state and government, the EU's Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said. This week's EU summit would also formally adopt a mandate on Friday to start talks on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo, he added (eubusiness.com, UK, 26/6). EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, has welcomed the political courage and *"maturity of the two prime ministers"* (Croix, FR, 26/6). However the Spanish government on Monday refused to agree a text that is set to be the starting point for EU talks with Kosovo over an association agreement, a move that makes clear its unease over the former Serbian province and that will delay the announcement of the launch of talks. A compromise would be for Kosovo to sign the agreement only with the EU and not with each EU country as is usual, EU sources say (Ara, ES, 25/6).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 26/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/serbia-kosovo.pez/>
- Croix, FR, 26/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130626/mi/item_160919955.pdf
- Ara, ES, 25/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130625/mi/item_160863838.pdf

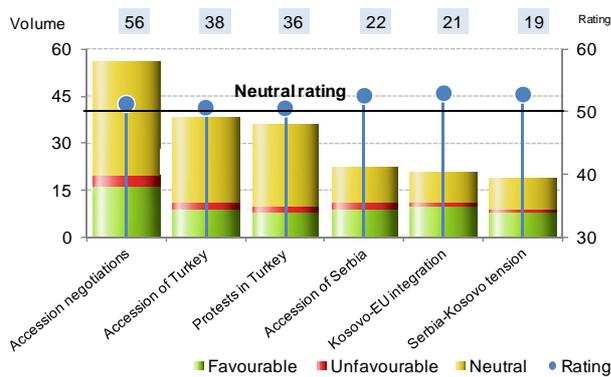
Croatia's accession

For Sandra Veic Sukreski, a journalist who lived through war, Croatia's EU accession marks a closure. *"I want Croatia to be seen as a normal European country, like France or the UK,"* she says. Croatia's entry also provides, to an EU mired in economic crisis, a reminder of its origins. Dejan Jovic, an adviser to Ivo Josipovic, Croatia's president, says Croats view the union just as its founders did, *"as an antiwar concept. They founded the EU because they had the experience of a war"* Yet for all the symbolism, much of the EU seems unsure whether to celebrate 4.5m-strong Croatia's entry or treat it with suspicion. There is little of the jubilation that surrounded the EU's absorption in 2004 of eight former communist states. That *"big bang"* enlargement was seen as reuniting Europe and burying the cold war. Since then, backsliding in countries such as Hungary has served as a warning that EU membership does not make progress towards democracy irreversible. More importantly, many EU governments and citizens are wary of admitting another weak southern European economy whose biggest industry is tourism (Financial-Times, UK, 26/6).

- Financial-Times, UK, 26/6, (link not available)

Charts

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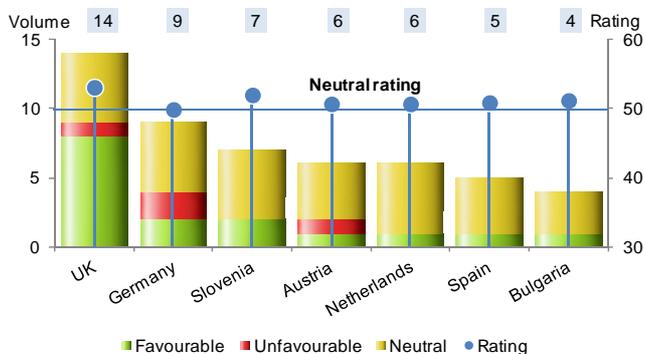
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	16
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	13
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	12
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	12
Eamon Gilmore (Foreign Minister, Ireland)	9
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	8
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Michael Spindelegger (Foreign Minister, Austria)	6

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