

## Key Quotes

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday she welcomed an agreement to reopen talks with Turkey about joining the European Union but warned in the light of the crackdown on Turkish anti-government protests that democratic values were non-negotiable. **"This outcome makes it clear that Turkey is an important partner but that our European values of the freedom to protest, freedom of opinion, the rule of law and religious freedom, are always valid and are not negotiable,"** said Merkel (Reuters, UK, 27/6)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/27/uk-germany-turkey-eu-idUKBRE95Q0AG20130627>

## Summary

### New grave for money of German taxpayers

Czech publication Ekonom quoted German tabloid Bild calling Croatia "a new pit for German taxpayers' money." It seems that the euphoria around the admission of new members which prevailed during the mass accession of Eastern European countries and the first Balkan country, Slovenia, in 2004 and the cautious joy that met the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, three years later, will not be repeated. "The European Union in 2013 is completely different from the one in 2004," says former EU Commissioner for Enlargement Günter Verheugen (Ekonom, CZ, 27/6). Underlining this German Chancellor Angela Merkel has cancelled a trip to Croatia to celebrate the EU entry due to lack of time. Croatian media have already labelled this as a shock from Berlin (Radio-Slovenija-1, SI, 26/6). Mate Graniè, a Croatian diplomat, said "Germany has given us a slap in the face" adding "Germany was a friend of Croatia since the beginning. It is a leading country in Europe. First the German Chancellor's attendance was announced, and then it was cancelled, this is a big problem" (Zurnal24, SI, 27/6). This attitude was reinforced by Rolf Dieter Krause of ARD (DE, 27/6) who said that to make the European Union work, it has to be assured that its laws and regulations are enforced in all member states. This cannot be guaranteed in Croatia. In addition Croatia's economy is not in a state either that makes it fit to join the European Union. Should Croatia be allowed to join anyway, it would prove the double standard applied by the European Union welcoming Croatia, a comparable state to Turkey, while Turkey's application is still far from being accepted.

- Ekonom, CZ, 27/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130627/mi/item\\_161063933.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130627/mi/item_161063933.pdf)
- Radio-Slovenija-1, SI, 26/6, (link not available)
- Zurnal24, SI, 27/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130627/mi/item\\_161093399.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130627/mi/item_161093399.pdf)
- ARD, DE, 27/6, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130626/mi/2501-477325-001.mp4>

### Belgrade does not want talks to last 10 years

Serbian premier Ivica Dačić held out hopes of bringing the country into the EU fold within a quick four to five-year span on Wednesday, a day after European Union ministers recommended that the bloc kick off membership talks by January. "We are not keen on having these talks last 10 years, we hope more like four or five years," Dačić said as he urged EU leaders to confirm the ministers' recommendation at the summit on Friday. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who brokered the April peace deal, said that at the summit on Friday "I will be there to say Serbia has delivered and the EU needs to deliver" (eubusiness.com, UK, 26/6).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 26/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/serbia-kosovo.pq0>

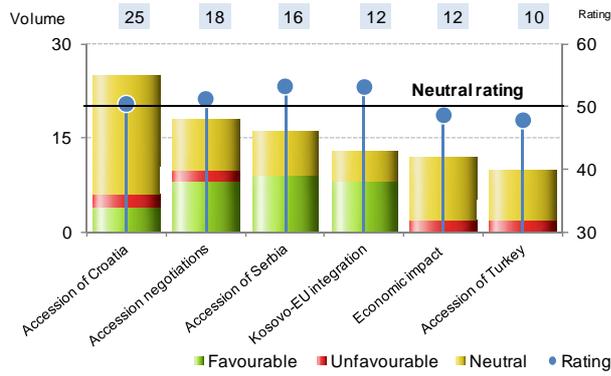
### Stabilisation and Association Agreement for Kosovo

Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec hosted his counterpart from Kosovo Enver Hoxhaj at Brdo pri Kranju on Wednesday, with the pair confirming good relations between the two countries and welcoming the decisions of the EU foreign ministers to start talks on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) for Kosovo (sta.si, 26/5). Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said that Serbia and Kosovo have passed beyond the expectations imposed on them (Nepszabadsag, HU, 27/6).

- sta.si, 26/6, <http://sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1900995>
- Nepszabadsag, HU, 27/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130627/mi/item\\_161080597.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130627/mi/item_161080597.pdf)

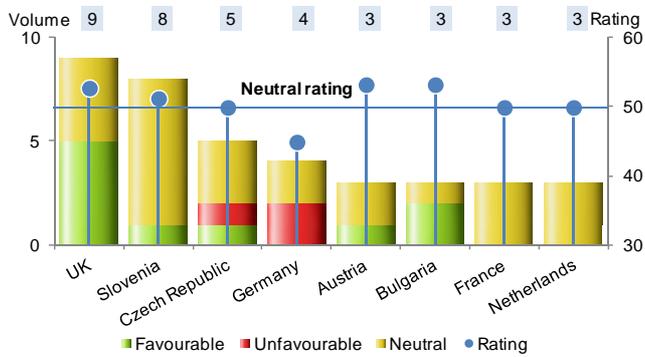
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**ELARG: Highlights**  
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Volume	47 items
Rating	51.1
Favourable %	25.5%
Unfavourable %	6.4%
Neutral %	68.1%

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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	12
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Dr Sali Berisha (former Prime Minister, Albania)	5
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	4
Enver Hoxhaj (Foreign Minister, Kosovo)	4

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