

Key Quotes

Croatia is the second ex-Yugoslav country after Slovenia to join. Judicial reform was among the toughest of the 33 negotiating areas, or "**chapters**". EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding said that "**in one year they have completely reformed their judiciary system and have made it irreversible**" (BBC Online, UK, 1/7)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11283616>

A former foreign minister of Croatia, Tonino Picula, said: "**The EU is not a solution to the country's problems itself but a valuable tool to resolve those problems**" (Publicserviceeurope.com, UK, 1/7)

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3640/eu-not-a-solution-but-a-valuable-tool-for-croatia>

Summary

Celebrations in Croatia

Thousands of people joined celebrations across Croatia on Sunday night to mark the country's accession. Many prominent guests attended the celebration in the capital, including EC President José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz. Slovenian President Borut Pahor said that Croatia's accession was a turning point for Croatia, the region, the EU, as well as Slovenia, which will now be surrounded by neighbours belonging to the same family; there is less euphoria and unfounded hope than in Slovenia in 2004, he added, stating that he considers this a sign of maturity (Zurnal24, SI, 1/7). With a different viewpoint The Times (UK, 1/7) noted that subdued ceremonies yesterday in Zagreb were attended by none of the leaders of the big EU states, which contrasted with the celebrations nearly a decade ago with the Union's embrace of the first former communist bloc members. Disillusion in Germany over the surge in immigration from new members such as Bulgaria and Romania has added to a sense in Brussels that the Union's eastward expansion will slow. From an economic point of view, there is not much joy. For the EU which is struggling with serious economic troubles, another country in trouble is joining the community, while for Zagreb the benefits of the membership will take a couple of years to emerge. Croatia will also have to reckon with the fact that measures to curb the excessive deficit may need to be taken soon (Világgazdaság, HU, 1/7). The Croatian Prime Minister summed it up saying "*Now, our success will depend on ourselves*" (Monitor-Daily, BG, 1/7).

- Zurnal24, SI, 1/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130701/mi/item_161501411.pdf
- The Times, UK, 1/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130701/mi/item_161485765.pdf
- Világgazdaság, HU, 1/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130701/mi/item_161497009.pdf
- Monitor-Daily, BG, 1/7, (link not available)

Dealing with corruption

In pieces more generally on enlargement, The Economist (UK, 29/6) notes that the hope of membership was crucial in fostering and smoothing the transition to democracy, first in Greece, Spain and Portugal and later across large parts of eastern Europe. Some countries were let in before their institutions were sufficiently developed (Romania and Bulgaria in 2007), or with unresolved territorial disputes (Cyprus, 2004) and Hungary (also 2004) has regressed in terms of its democracy. However, it suggests that Enlargement has been the EU's most successful policy bar none. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (DE, 1/7) comments that while opening the doors of the European Union to states from the Balkans is the right geopolitical step, one cannot but criticise forbearance vis-à-vis Croatia's flaws. The EU is repeating the same mistakes it made with Bulgaria and Romania.

- The Economist, UK, 29/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130629/mi/item_161285445.pdf
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 1/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130701/mi/item_161484970.pdf

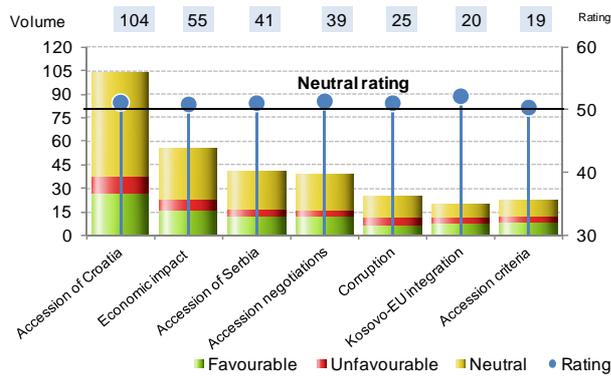
Serbian talks

The decision that gives Serbia the chance to enter into negotiations to join the EU presents a great opportunity for Serbia. The finish is still far away, but the journey is more important than the goal. The more pro-European rhetoric contributed to the gradual normalisation of Serbian society in less than a year - there is less hatred and extremism in the public dialogue, the Kosovo myth has dispersed and the recent Pride Parade passed off uneventfully (Vecer, SI, 1/7). The Prime Minister Ivica Dačić commented "*You can be sure that Serbia will do everything to accelerate reforms*" (La Tribune, FR, 1/7)

- Vecer, SI, 1/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130701/mi/item_161500610.pdf
- LaTribune, FR, 1/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130701/mi/item_161478539.pdf

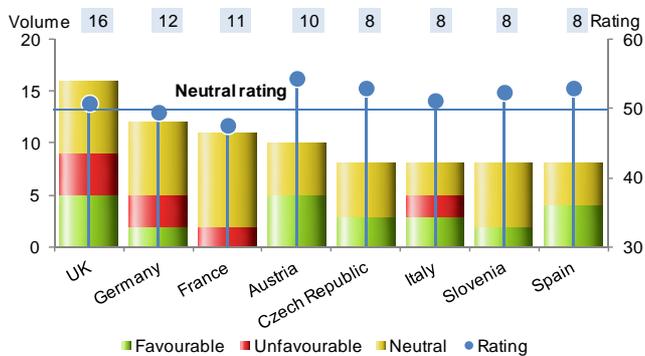
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiqity 2013

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiqity 2013

ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Volume | 113 items |
| Rating | 51.2 |
| Favourable % | 25.7% |
| Unfavourable % | 9.7% |
| Neutral % | 64.6% |

© Ebiqity 2013

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|---|--------------------|
| Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia) | 21 |
| José Manuel Barroso (President, EC) | 20 |
| Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany) | 16 |
| Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council) | 15 |
| Ivo Josipovic (President Croatia) | 15 |
| Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia) | 8 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 5 |

© Ebiqity 2013

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