

Key Quotes

Lydia Gall, a researcher at the Human Rights Watch campaign group, writes that "*Croatia in the EU now has no incentive to improve human rights*" (Publicserviceeurope.com, UK, 2/7)

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3663/croatia-in-the-eu-now-has-no-incentive-to-improve-human-rights>

Summary

Public anxiety in Croatia

Croatia's accession is marked by public anxiety that it will be the latest fall guy of the EU political elite's neoliberal ideology. The European leaders want us to believe that, in spite of the Union's current crisis, this accession clearly testifies to the EU's lasting transformative power, its undisputable international role, and the desirability of its political and economic model. The Croatian political elite wants its citizens to believe that the old dream of joining Europe, which framed the narrative that once legitimised the reasons for abandoning socialism and later Yugoslavia, is finally achieved (guardian.co.uk, UK, 1/7). However, Croatia's youth unemployment rate is 50 per cent, it has been in recession for five consecutive years and living standards are plunging. Corruption is rife among its political elite and its global credit rating has been reduced to junk. All of which, according to the joke doing the rounds, are ideal qualifications for EU membership (The Sun, UK, 2/7). The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, called on Croatia to continue its reforms. "*There are many steps to be taken, especially in the area of security and the fight against corruption*" said Merkel (Monitor, BG, 2/7).

- guardian.co.uk, UK, 1/7, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/01/croatia-latest-member-eu-periphery>
- The Sun, UK, 2/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130702/mi/item_161610675.pdf
- Monitor, BG, 2/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130702/mi/item_161602312.pdf

Balkan enlargement and wider

The EU has disintegrated during the crisis into a centre and a periphery, but in addition to first and second class, there is also the periphery of the periphery - the 'Western Balkans', or the area of former Yugoslavia. Montenegro and Serbia are in the lobby, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia farther behind while Kosovo has still not been recognised by the five states. The Balkans are maintaining the European dream and believe in the European idea, although they are watching the radical transformation of Europe with fear. The question is whether the Union still holds the capacity to transform its countries and how much of its 'soft power' remains (Delo, SI, 2/7). The British Prime Minister made a hugely provocative pro-EU speech as he toured the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. Talking to Kazakh students in the capital Astana he said: "*Britain has always supported the widening of the EU*" adding "*Our vision of the EU is that it should be a large trading and co-operating organisation that effectively stretches, as it were, from the Atlantic to the Urals. We have a wide vision of Europe and have always encouraged countries that want to join.*" Mr Cameron has been a staunch advocate of Turkey joining the EU and last week welcomed interest by Serbia (The Daily Express, UK, 2/7).

- Delo, SI, 2/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130702/mi/item_161623342.pdf
- The Daily Express, UK, 2/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130702/mi/item_161610672.pdf

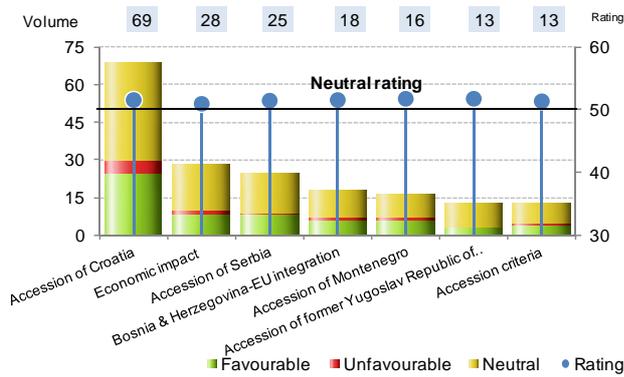
3 Chapters for Turkey

The Lithuanian EU presidency will attempt by the end of 2013 to open three chapters in Turkey's EU accession negotiations. The first chapter, inherited from the Irish EU Presidency, is that on Regional Policy, which will possibly open in October. The second chapter concerns Monetary Policy, which is considered to be a 'political gift' by French president Francois Hollande. Finally, the Lithuanian EU Presidency, with the guidance of the European Commission, will seek to open the chapter on Social Policy and Employment, on the condition however that Turkey legislates on the constitutional right to strike (ANT-1-TV, CY, 1/7).

- ANT-1-TV, CY, 1/7, (link not available)

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

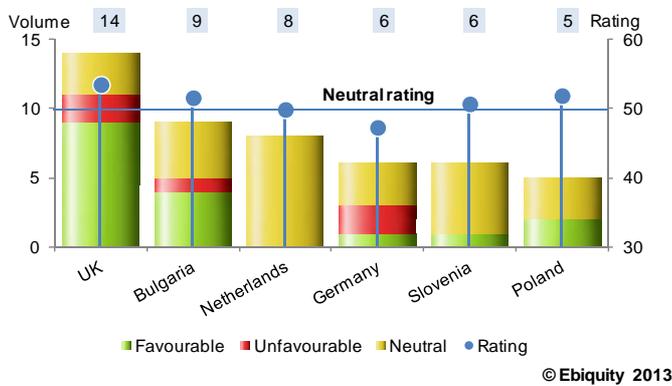


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	74 items
Rating	51.6
Favourable %	33.8%
Unfavourable %	6.7%
Neutral %	59.5%

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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



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 Josipović (President, Croatia)	15
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5

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