



Summary

Friday's announcement that the EU has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 sparked a flurry of media interest in the Commission's activities, particularly regarding accession negotiations with Montenegro, reconciliation in the Balkans and the progress of human rights efforts in Turkey. Further coverage of the award is expected to feature through the coming week.

Every autumn, the Commission adopts a strategic plan for the future of the enlargement policy (bruxinfo.hu, HU, 11/10). The EC has added new control measures and standards to monitor candidates' progress, with power to stop accession procedures if there is evidence that a candidate state does not implement the necessary reforms. European Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle admitted that Brussels is learning from the mistakes made in the accession process for Romania and Hungary (realitatea.net, RO, 11/10). France shares the Commission's analysis regarding the pace of the enlargement process (diplomatie.gouv.fr, FR, 11/10).

- bruxinfo.hu, HU, 11/10, <http://www.bruxinfo.hu/cikk/20121010-taqjelolti-statuszt-ker-a-bizottsag-albanianak.html>
- realitatea.net, RO, 11/10, http://www.realitatea.net/romania-modifica-criteriile-de-aderarela-uniunea-europeana_1027610.html
- diplomatie.gouv.fr, FR, 11/10, <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/europe-828/avenir-de-l-union-europeenne/article/union-europeenne-rapport-sur-l?xtor=RSS-4>

After the best part of a decade, Croatia has inched further forward in achieving its aim of securing membership of the EU. Announcing the findings of Croatia's monitoring report, Commissioner Füle said "I have no reason to believe that Croatia will not become the 28th member of the EU, and there will be no need for further supervision after July 1, 2013." The Croatian President Ivo Josipovic claimed "This is a pretty positive report which shows that Croatia is in step with its obligations in the preparations for EU membership" (bne.eu, UK, 11/10). German Christian Democrat Bernd Posselt and Slovenian Liberal Ivo Vajgl expressed concern that some critical tones in the report could serve as an excuse to stop the ratification of Croatia's accession treaty (news.in.gr, GR, 11/10).

- bne.eu, UK, 11/10, <http://www.bne.eu/story4083>
- news.in.gr, GR, 11/10, <http://news.in.gr/world/article/?aid=1231217232>

Commissioner Füle stated that Serbia would not face new conditions in its progress towards EU membership. Addressing journalists after talks in Belgrade, Commissioner Füle said that the EC would remain neutral on the status of Kosovo and that Serbia will obtain a date for the start of membership talks after progress is made on the most important issues and relations with Kosovo are significantly improved. Mr Füle said that this had nothing to do with Kosovo's status but was rather a reflection of the EU's position against a break-up of Kosovo. Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic expressed satisfaction with the talks and said Belgrade was willing to resume negotiations with Pristina in the absence of new conditions (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 11/10). In Bulgaria it was suggested that President Nikolic and Prime Minister Dacic behave as if they are trying to distance Serbia away from Europe focusing instead on relations with Russia (mediapool.bg, BG, 11/10).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 11/10, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/kosovo/2012/10/11/Serbia-Ue-assicura-nessuna-nuova-condizione-Belgrado_7612847.html
- mediapool.bg, BG, 11/10, <http://bit.ly/V3Py7c>

Dagens-Nyheter (SE, 12/10) reported on the plight of Roma people and their impact on Swedish affairs. The newspaper said that the EU has demanded that Serbia stop the flow of Roma into Europe before membership negotiations can begin. Since the EU lifted visa requirements for Serbs three years ago, thousands of Roma have left and the EU demands that Serbia stop Roma migrants before they leave the country; Serbia believes this goes against the policy of free movement. The result could be a reinstatement of visa requirements for all Serbs. "Since 2010, more than 10,000 Serbian Roma have applied for asylum in Sweden" it concluded (Dagens-Nyheter, SE, 12/10).

- Dagens-Nyheter, SE, 12/10, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121012/mi/item_136860344.pdf

Key Quotes

Politician and ex Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Dukanovic comments on Parliamentary Elections: **"Dear friends, we have won. Montenegro is moving forward. We have all the conditions to start working from tomorrow on the formation of a government that will lead Montenegro on the path to European Union and NATO integration and improve the quality of life for all citizens"** (Alice, FR, 15/10).
http://aliceadsl.lemonde.fr/europe/article/2012/10/15/la-coalition-sortante-en-tete-des-legislatives-au-montenegro_1775329_3214.html?bloc_actu

Scottish PR consultant Brian Monteith says: **"An EU vote should concentrate Scottish minds"** (The Scotsman, UK, 15/10).
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/brian-monteith-an-eu-vote-should-concentrate-scottish-minds-1-2576125>

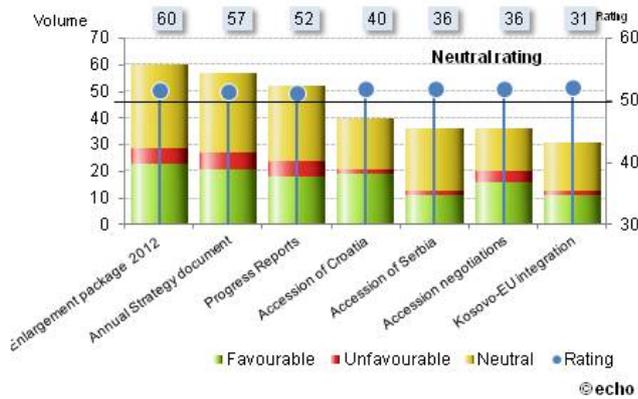
"The EU has eased enduring conflicts by holding out the promise of accession. It was largely this consideration that persuaded Serbia to deliver Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the authors of Bosnia's catastrophe, to The Hague. The enlargement of the EU eastwards entrenched former Soviet satellites in the European family of nations" (Times, UK, 13/10).
http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121013/mi/item_136974666.pdf

"The only time since 1945 that a major conflict erupted on the Continent, in the Balkans, the EU proved hopeless. Indeed, the premature, German driven, EU recognition of Croatia may have helped to precipitate the Serbian-Croatian war. Did EU institutions speed the downfall of communism? Only in the sense that EU entry gave East European reformers a goal. Did the EU head off war between Greece and Turkey? No, that was Nato. Did the EU embrace the Arab Spring? Only in its rhetoric. When the celebratory banquet is held in Oslo in December, Mr Barroso will be on the dance floor. But he will not be following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi, who never won the prize. 'Oslo is saying that the disintegration of the EU could lead to war'" (Times, UK, 13/10).
http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121013/mi/item_136974762.pdf

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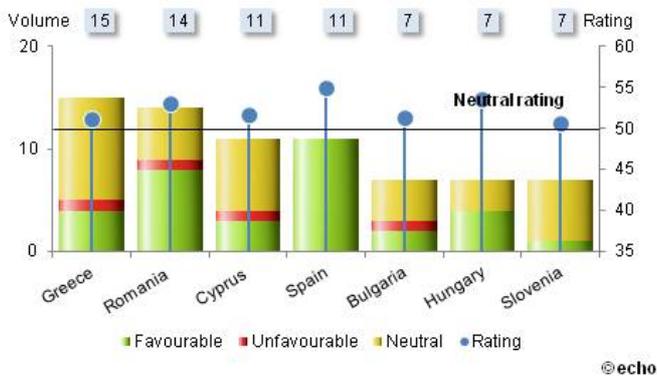
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Rating	51.9
Favourable %	39.8%
Unfavourable %	6.4%
Neutral %	53.8%

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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
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EC)	44
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	18
Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Spain)	11
Bernd Posselt (MEP)	7
Ivo Vajgl (MEP)	7
Janez Janša (Prime Minister, Slovenia)	6