

## Key Quotes

Members of Kosovo's ethnic Serb minority form their own assembly. **"Only a democratic and economically powerful Serbia can help the Serbian people of Kosovo, but we cannot accept the price of Serbia's entry into the EU: land loss and forced integration into a state we don't recognise,"** said Kosovar Serb leader Slavko Stevanovic (La Razon, Spain, 4/7)

[http://www.larazon.es/detalle\\_normal/noticias/2892173/internacional/municipios-serbios-del-norte-de-kosovo-forman#.UdZcO\\_nqk3B](http://www.larazon.es/detalle_normal/noticias/2892173/internacional/municipios-serbios-del-norte-de-kosovo-forman#.UdZcO_nqk3B)

## Summary

### Balkan negotiations

Looking at EU accession negotiations the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Philip Reeker suggests there is progress among the Balkan countries in moving toward greater European integration, but he cites the need for leaders there to invigorate their efforts. Speaking at the RFE/RL bureau in Sarajevo on July 3, Reeker said *"We see tremendous effort on the part of Kosovo and Serbia and their leadership to work with the European Union and to find a way to normalise their relations and move ahead in their European perspective"* but, he added *"We have seen Bosnia-Herzegovina [sic] falling behind the others in the region, and so while the international community remains fully engaged and ready to help as we have others in the region, it's up to the leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina [sic] to fulfil their responsibility and to use the help of the international community, and the first thing those leaders should do is get back to work to make the institutions function"*. He went on to say *"It is leaders of this country who have chosen not to function,"* adding *"It is up to them to perform the necessary acts of governance, and if that includes changing, adjusting, or amending the constitution, they can do that too"* (rferl.org, CZ, 3/7). Also commenting on accession negotiations European Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle, said all countries in the West Balkans should decisively continue their way to the European Union, *"the enlargement process will not end until all nations in the region of the West Balkans start benefitting from the advantages of a United Europe"*. (focus-news.net, BG, 3/7)

- rferl.org, CZ, 3/7, <http://www.rferl.org/content/balkan-us-progress-effort/25035816.html>
- focus-news.net, BG, 3/7, <http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1801512>

### Serbia and Kosovo reach agreement

Serbian Courts in northern Kosovo have stopped their activities, on the basis of the April 19 agreement between Belgrade and Priština. The local press emphasises this stop as a further step towards the abolition of the parallel structures of government kept by Belgrade in northern Kosovo, an area with Serb majority. From now on, the Serbs of Kosovo can no longer turn to Serbian Courts, but must submit their requests to Kosovan Courts. In recent days, on the basis of the same agreement on normalisation of relations signed by Serbian and Kosovan Prime Ministers with the EU mediation, Serbian police stations in northern Kosovo had been closed. Technical negotiations are going on in Brussels between delegations from Belgrade and Priština, in order to resolve disputes that remain in the fields of energy, telecommunications, amnesty, local elections. Full implementation of the April 19 Agreement has been requested by the EU in January in order to open accession negotiations with Serbia and the Association Agreement with Kosovo (ansa.it, IT, 3/7).

- ansa.it, IT, 3/7, [http://www.ansa.it/nuova\\_europa/en/news/sections/news/2013/07/03/Kosovo-serbian-courts-the-North-stop-activities\\_8967417.html](http://www.ansa.it/nuova_europa/en/news/sections/news/2013/07/03/Kosovo-serbian-courts-the-North-stop-activities_8967417.html)

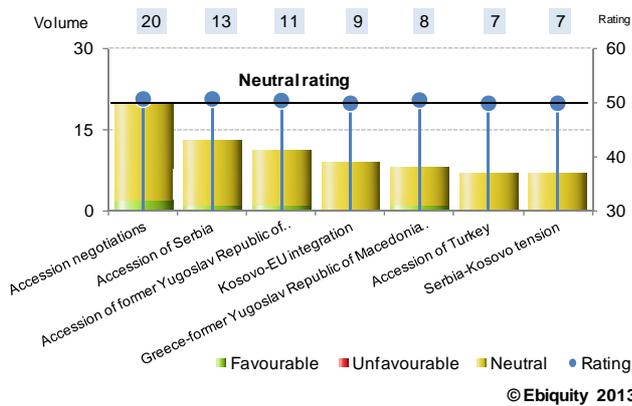
### Name dispute

The Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, has sent a letter to Greek counterpart Antonis Samaras in which he calls for the speeding up of the process of negotiations over the name dispute between the two countries. Gruevski says the dispute's settlement is a priority for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and both sides should focus their efforts towards overcoming the only obstacle in the bilateral relations, thus opening the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's path to EU accession (kerdos.gr, GR, 4/7).

- kerdos.gr, GR, 4/7, <http://www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1940332&nt=103>

## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating

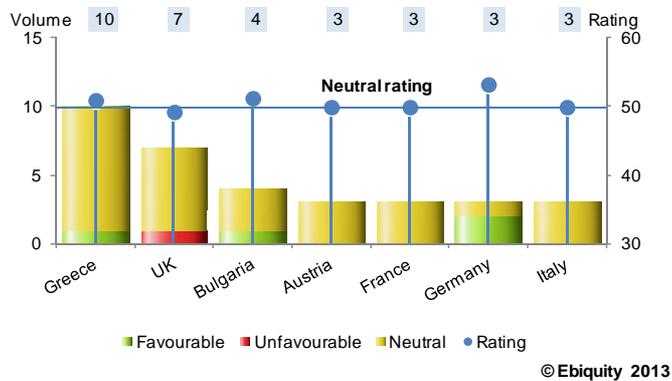


**ELARG: Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	38 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	10.6%
Unfavourable %	2.6%
Neutral %	86.8%

© Ebiqity 2013

**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski (President, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,)	7
Matthew Nimetz (Special Representative for the naming dispute between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UN)	7
Antonis Samaras (Prime Minister, Greece)	7
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3

© Ebiqity 2013

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