

Key Quotes

EU urges Serbia and Kosovo to put the agreement in place *"in the coming months"*. EU High Representative Catherine Ashton said: *"It is of crucial importance that the work on implementation continues in the coming weeks and months, as foreseen with the implementation plan"* (Adevarul, RO, 8/7)

http://adevarul.ro/international/europa/ue-insistaca-serbia-kosovo-isi-puna-acordul-aplicare-inurmatoarele-luni-1_51db21cfc7b855ff5619af06/index.html

Summary

Economic woes for Croatia

The economic impact of Croatian accession has been widely commented on. Croatia, is in its fifth year of recession, has a forecast debt of 60% of GDP in 2014 and has also high youth unemployment rates. With its accession to the EU, Croatia will have to leave the Central Europe free trade agreement which the country had been part of since 2002. Croatian companies that used to export to countries in this area will face high customs duties if they want to continue exporting there. (ABC, ES, 7/7). El Pais (ES, 7/7) notes that the economy of Croatia has been very affected by the economic crisis and if some urgent measures are not taken soon, the twenty-eighth Member State will be a drag on Europe. It would have been much more intelligent to use prudence and try to solve the problems of the twenty-seven existing members of the EU before admitting new members it suggests. Despite the promise of an export boost upon entry, Croatia is more or less in the middle of a long depression, which shows no signs of abating. As its neighbours, burdened by their own chronic economic shortfalls, look increasingly inwards, interest in relatively resource-poor Croatia has dwindled (londonlovesbusiness.com, UK, 7/7).

- ABC, ES, 7/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130707/mi/item_162215984.pdf
- El Pais, ES, 7/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130707/mi/item_162215991.pdf
- londonlovesbusiness.com, UK, 7/7, <http://www.londonlovesbusiness.com/business-news/politics/croatia-may-be-in-the-eu-but-it-faces-a-long-hard-road-ahead/5889.article>

New talks for Serbia and Kosovo

The Serbian government is preparing for the opening of accession negotiations with the EU, although the implementation of the Brussels Agreement is becoming increasingly complex, Delo (SI, 8/7) notes. Serbs in northern Kosovo have established their own parliament, which refuses to accept that the price for the entry of Serbia is a loss of territory and forced integration into unrecognised state institutions. Meanwhile, the Assembly of Kosovo rejected the adoption of the amnesty law, which is not based on ethnic grounds. Both Prime Ministers are to sit down at the same table on Monday. First Vice Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić says that accession talks will not solve all the problems of Serbia. Ahead of the meeting, Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said he was optimistic and believed that the two parties would reach agreement on the telecommunications and energy sectors (focus-news.net, BG, 8/7). However Der Standard (AT, 6/7) suggested that just shaking hands is not enough; The *"historic"* agreement about the normalisation of their relations is there but both countries have now problems with it from their own people. The Serbs in Northern Kosovo do not want to go along with it and for Kosovo without the amnesty law, the Brussels agreement could not be implemented, the Justice Ministry in Belgrade said.

- Delo, SI, 8/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130708/mi/item_162268692.pdf
- focus-news.net, BG, 8/7, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1803305>
- Der Standard, AT, 6/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130706/mi/item_162268522.pdf

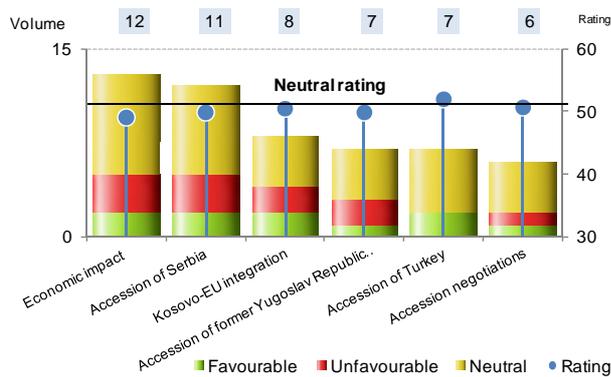
Letter to Basel

Slovene and Croatian foreign ministers Karl Erjavec and Vesna Pusić harmonised the content of a joint letter for the International Settlement Bank in Basel, requesting the support of the bank in the continuation of the succession negotiations. Both ministers agreed that the largest Slovene bank Nova Ljubljanska Banka (NLB), the successor to the former Ljubljanska Banka (LB), is free to enter the Croatian market. It is Slovenia's standpoint that the succession agreement is the only relevant document regarding the solving of the issue of LB savers (Dnevnik, SI, 6/7)

- Dnevnik, SI, 6/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130706/mi/item_162268307.pdf

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

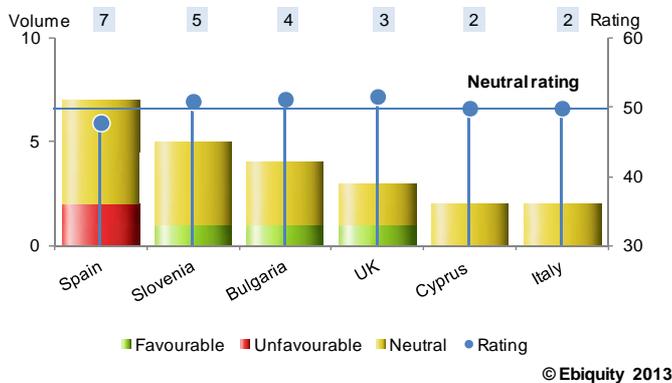


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	27 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	14.8%
Unfavourable %	14.8%
Neutral %	70.4%

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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
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	2
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Karl Erjavec (Foreign Minister, Slovenia)	2

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