

Key Quotes

Foreign Minister Kristian Vigenin has reiterated Bulgaria's commitment to signing a good neighbour agreement with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, stressing that the treaty will pave the way toward the country's EU accession. **"Bulgaria and the other EU Member States from the region will only become a true part of the EU when all countries in the Western Balkans, including the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have joined the EU. Only when we are all united in one economic area, which is governed according to common democratic values and the rule of law, shall we be able to secure a better future for our citizens,"** said Vigenin (Novinite, Bulgaria, 9/7) http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=151885

Summary

Tensions in Turkey

The Financial Times (UK, 9/7) has compared Egypt and Turkey and suggests that the current Egyptian problems are not unique. Some of the complaints of the Istanbul demonstrators are similar to those heard in Cairo. They accuse the Turkish government of eroding civil liberties, undermining the courts, intimidating journalists and supporting a creeping Islamisation that threatens the freedoms of secular Turks - whether it is the right to drink beer or to dress "immodestly". Like the Brotherhood, the AKP in Turkey has responded to the complaints of liberals by pointing to its electoral mandate. Part of the problem seems to be the gap between a relatively affluent and educated urban elite that finds itself outvoted by the rest of the country. Once in power, an elected populist with authoritarian instincts can trample on freedoms cherished by the urban middle classes, while appealing to the "real" nation, out in the small towns or countryside. Meanwhile de.reuters.com (DE, 9/7) reports that police have arrested 80 protesters in Istanbul and, because of the actions of security forces against the demonstrators, the European Union postponed the opening of a new chapter in the accession negotiations until the autumn. The German politician Guntram Schneider has called on Turkey to reduce its "significant deficiencies" in fundamental rights such as freedom of religion and freedom of the press and the right to demonstrate (Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 8/7).

- Financial Times, UK, 9/7,
- de.reuters.com, DE, 9/7, <http://de.reuters.com/article/topNews/idDEBEE96800B20130709>
- Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 8/7 <http://www.derwesten.de/politik/nrw-minister-kritisiert-fehlende-demokratie-in-der-tuerkei-id8163075.html>

Progress in Serbo-Kosovo talks

Agreements between Belgrade and Priština on telecommunications and energy are almost completed, stated Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, at the end of the thirteenth round of talks with Ivica Dačić, Serbian Prime Minister, and Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of Kosovo, held in Brussels. "Our discussions on these texts will continue in the coming days when I visit Belgrade and Dačić", Ashton said. "After the historic decision of the European Council in June to open talks with Serbia towards accession and negotiations with Kosovo on the association agreement we have dealt with the next steps to implement the agreement on the management of northern Kosovo, reached last April" (ansa.it, IT, 9/7). Baroness Ashton went on to say that "It is of crucial importance that the work on implementation continues in the coming weeks and months, as called for in the implementation plan" and added "I am pleased that both prime ministers have confirmed their commitment to this goal" (ideal.es, ES, 9/7).

- ansa.it, IT, 9/7, http://www.ansa.it/nuova_europa/en/news/sections/politics/2013/07/09/Serbia-Kosovo-closer-agreements-Tlc-energy_8996145.html
- ideal.es, ES, 9/7, http://www.ideal.es/agencias/20130709/mas-actualidad/internacional/ashton-insta-serbia-kosovo-seguir_201307090937.html

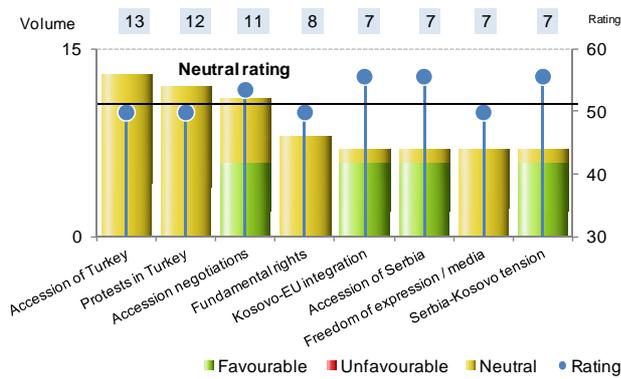
Only through dialogue can name dispute be resolved

Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski said that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is trying to initiate dialogue with officials in Athens on the name dispute. According to Gruevski, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia met the criteria to start negotiations for EU membership in 2009. International law is on her side, evident from the decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, but Greece has blocked its Euro-Atlantic integration. Gruevski said he expects a positive response from the Greek Prime Minister to the letter he sent last week (focus-news.net, BG, 9/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 9/7, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1803642>

Charts

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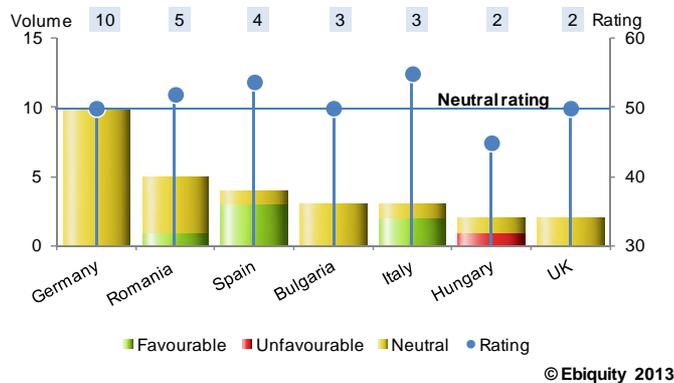


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Volume	32 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	18.8%
Unfavourable %	3.1%
Neutral %	78.1%

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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Guntram Schneider (German Politician)	6
Titus Corlăţean (Foreign Minister, Romania)	4
Vladimir Jarmolenko (Lithuanian Ambassador to Romania)	4

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