

Key Quotes

Europe is sidestepping the human rights chapter in accession negotiations with Turkey, Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek charged during an economics briefing here on Wednesday. **"The European Union does not want to discuss the human rights chapter. It has not offered us a road map or any criteria"**, the minister said. **"If the EU is genuinely interested in human rights and a more functional democracy, let us talk about it. Tell us what is missing. But this is not happening"** (Ansamed, IT, 10/7)

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/07/10/Turkey-EU-talks-not-truly-interested-human-rights_9002654.html

Summary

Help for Serbia's businesses

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton said in Belgrade on Tuesday that Serbia's leaders had shown vision and courage in making hard decisions and facing great political challenges, which she described as an inspiration for the entire region and the world. *"It is a process full of challenges and it is good to see Serbia preparing,"* she said (elconfidencial.com, ES, 9/7). It was also reported that the European Union and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) had launched a program on Tuesday for assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Serbia. The European Union will finance the program with a donation of EUR 3.5 million, and the EBRD Small Business Support team will be tasked with running it. In close cooperation with the Serbian Ministry of Finance and Economy, the EBRD will support over 240 Serbian companies in the next three years. Since 2001, the EU has granted around EUR 70 million from pre-accession funds for the development of SMEs in Serbia. EBRD Director for Serbia Matteo Patrone confirmed that results achieved by the EBRD Small Business Support team are excellent, as these companies are not only capable of increasing their turnover, but also creating jobs (ansamed.info, IT, 9/7).

- elconfidencial.com, ES, 9/7, <http://www.elconfidencial.com/ultima-hora-en-vivo/2013/07/ashton-elogia-valor-inspirador-serbia-negociaciones-20130709-173809.html>
- ansamed.info, IT, 9/7, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/serbia/2013/07/09/Serbia-EBRD-backing-small-medium-enterprises_8999273.html

Serbia/Kosovo agreement gives hope to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The disputed name issue with Greece is not bigger than the dispute between Kosovo and Serbia, stated the leader of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) in Macedonia, Ali Ahmeti. He said *"So far there have been meetings at ambassador level between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece but there has been no concrete proposal for the name. Now there is a proposal – Upper Republic Macedonia. This means that there is one basic document around which the countries can unite for talks"*. Ahmeti went on to suggest that there would be no talks without the pressure from the International Community and help from the countries in the region (focus-news.net, BG, 9/7). Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras has not commented on the letter sent last week by his counterpart from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, in which Gruevski invited the Greek leader to an urgent meeting over the name dispute between the two countries. Journalists in Athens from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia commented that so far there was no response or feedback from the Greek capital, though they have been urging for an official comment on a daily basis (focus-fen.net, BG, 10/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 9/7, <http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1803885>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 10/7, <http://focus-fen.net/?id=n310609>

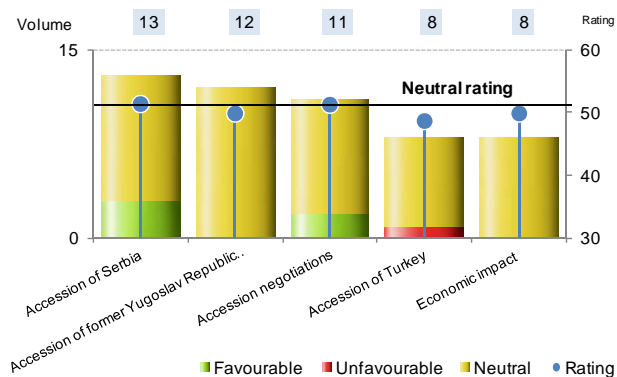
Re-imposition of visas

The European Parliament's lead negotiator has reached an agreement with member states to temporarily re-impose visa requirements for people coming from the Western Balkans. *"The [European] Commission is free to decide whether or not visas are suspended, the key point is that this is not something that is compulsory for the Commission"* said Spanish conservative MEP Agustin Diaz de Mera, the parliament's negotiator. Short-stay visa requirements for the EU were recently lifted for five Balkan states, but an upsurge of reportedly unfounded asylum demands from the region prompted member states last year to pressure the European Commission to tackle the problem (novinite.com, BG, 10/7).

- novinite.com, BG, 10/7, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=151892

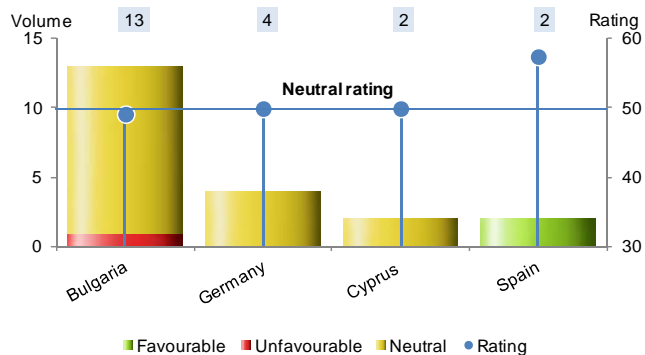
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	27 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	11.1%
Unfavourable %	3.7%
Neutral %	85.2%

© Ebiquity 2013

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Agustín Díaz De Mera García Consuegra (MEP)	6
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Ali Ahmeti (Politician, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	4
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

© Ebiquity 2013

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