

Key Quotes

Kosovo adopts amnesty for Serbs. Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Hajredin Kuci addressed parliament before the vote on July 11. **"When a law is not fit for the people we should change the law and not the people,"** Kuci said. **"In this logic we have seen that the previous draft bill was not good enough for the parliament of the Republic of Kosovo, for a part of civil society, and for a part of other [political] subjects and individuals, therefore the bill presented today is changed"** (Rferl.org, CZ, 12/7)

<http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-serbia-amnesty-/25043800.html>

Foreign Secretary William Hague urged Bosnia and Herzegovina's politicians to make progress on the path to European Union and Nato membership: **"Some today still dream of breaking up Bosnia [sic]. To those people our message is simple: only the united and sovereign state of Bosnia-Herzegovina [sic] can be an EU member state. There are no shortcuts to that or alternatives that we will support. "And we stand ready to help the people of Bosnia fulfil their EU aspirations, just as we have helped Croatia, and just as we have and will help Serbia, Kosovo or any other country in the region.** (Huffington Post, UK, 11/7)

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/07/11/srebrenica-genocide_n_3581824.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Summary

No rest for Belgrade and Priština

The head of European diplomacy, Catherine Ashton, urged Kosovo and Serbia to continue the implementation of the agreement they had reached and said she was pleased *"because there is a strong will to meet commitments by Kosovo and Serbia"* (ideal.es, ES, 10/7). Ashton expressed her appreciation of the Serbian leadership's vision and courage in making difficult decisions, while coping with the major political challenges, which gave birth to the unanimous decision by the EU Member States to start accession negotiations with Serbia without new conditions (Vecer, SI, 11/7). She said the European Commission is already working on the negotiations, which will be presented to Member States. *"There will be no summer break for all, because we have to show progress,"* she said after a meeting with Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić, Prime Minister Ivica Dačić, and his first deputy, Aleksandar Vučić (ansamed.info, IT, 10/7). Delo (SI, 11/7) reports that Brussels and Washington are putting pressure on Belgrade and Priština, which are pursuing the normalisation of relations extremely slowly. A new meeting of Prime Ministers is scheduled for 24 July.

- ideal.es, ES, 10/7, http://www.ideal.es/agencias/20130710/mas-actualidad/internacional/ashton-anima-kosovo-serbia-seguir_201307101701.htm
- Vecer, SI, 11/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130711/mi/item_162627839.pdf
- ansamed.info, IT, 10/7, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/serbia/2013/07/10/Serbia-Ashton-Ue-iniziati-preparativi-negoziati-adesione_9002088.html
- Delo, SI, 11/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130711/mi/item_162616546.pdf

Albanian views on name dispute

"The inter-ethnic situation in Macedonia [sic] is not bad, it can be managed, but we have to work hard towards solving the problems we are facing," said Ali Ahmeti, leader of the Democratic Union for Integration, part of the ruling coalition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citing *"the name dispute between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the fast accession of the country in NATO and the EU"*. He said Albanians in the country were concerned about the name issue, *"This country belongs to Albanians, too – they are part of it, and thus we are interested in this issue, too. We have contributed to the future and we wish to contribute further, so this issue has to be solved as soon as possible. We do not agree with the name Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or Slavo-Macedonia or National Republic of Macedonia. The Albanians agree with everything else, but not with these names"* (focus-news.net, BG, 10/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 10/7, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1804224>

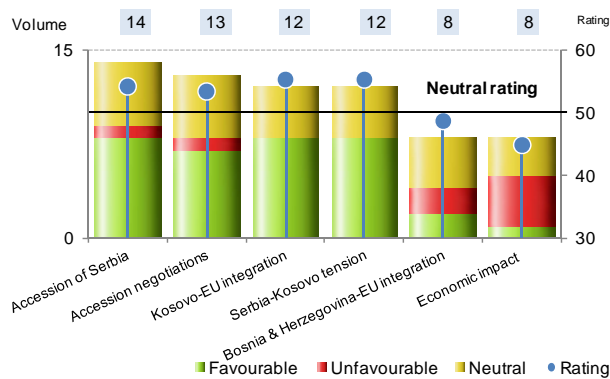
Human rights in Turkey

Europe is sidestepping the human rights chapter in accession negotiations with Turkey, Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek suggested. *"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"*. He said that after accession negotiations had resumed *"When the Turkish justice minister came to Brussels he was not told what the negotiation chapter on justice requires,"* adding *"When the European Parliament speaks it always has much to say. Its criticisms do help Turkey, but a little honesty is also needed"*. Şimşek went on to say *"Accelerating the accession process with Turkey is now in the interests of the EU"*. *"Even the immigration excuse is a moot point by now. There are more Turks coming back from Germany than leaving for Germany"* (ansamed.info, IT, 10/7).

- ansamed.info, 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

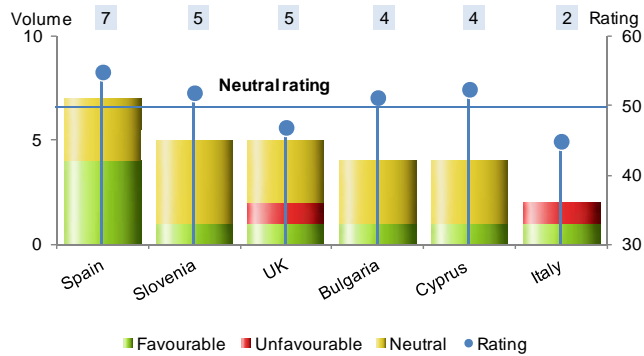
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Unfavourable %	12.5%
Neutral %	53.1%

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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)	10
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	8
Atifete Jahjaga (President, Kosovo)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Ali Ahmeti (Politician, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	2
Slavko Linić (Finance Minister, Croatia)	2

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