

Key Quotes

Charles Turner writes that *"At the height of the Gezi park crisis, Erdoğan described the process of EU accession talks as 'tragi-comic', and singled out Nicholas Sarkozy – implacably hostile to Turkey - as chief culprit. It is all the more worrying, then, that Erdoğan himself now seeks a new constitution that would replace the parliamentary system with a French-style presidential one, with – he hopes - himself as first incumbent."* ([independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk), UK, 14/7)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/there-have-been-protests-in-both-turkey-and-egypt-in-recent-months-but-the-similarities-end-there-8708104.html>

Summary

Amnesty for Kosovo Serbs

Kosovo has granted wide-ranging amnesty to minority Serbs who rebelled against the government. The move is seen as a key step in European Union-brokered efforts to normalise relations between Priština and Belgrade. The amnesty bill passed by a two-thirds majority Thursday in the Kosovo parliament. *"In a fragile democracy, such as the one in which we live, laws aim to change reality for good,"* Kosovo's deputy prime minister, Hajredin Kuçi, told lawmakers ahead of the vote. The law does not specifically mention any ethnic group, but is designed to target ethnic Serbs in the north of the country who have violently opposed Kosovo independence, including attacking international and local security forces, erecting barricades and committing other acts of civil disobedience. Serbia and Kosovo agreed to normalise ties in April as part of their efforts towards eventual EU membership ([dw.de](http://www.dw.de), DE, 11/7). Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, said yesterday that the amnesty law is *"an important and necessary political act that leads to reconciliation"* ([que.es](http://www.que.es), ES, 11/7). At the same time, the Directorate General for Enlargement approved a resolution urging *"the Spanish Government to recognise the Republic of Kosovo as an independent and 'full member of the international community'... the text stresses the need for official recognition to "strengthen common European foreign policy and ensure political stability in the region"* ([El Pais](http://www.elpais.com), ES, 12/7).

- [dw.de](http://www.dw.de), DE, 11/7, <http://m.dw.de/english/mobile.A-16946517-9097.html>
- [que.es](http://www.que.es), ES, 11/7, <http://www.que.es/ultimas-noticias/internacionales/201307112024-parlamento-kosovo-aprueba-ampnrc.html>
- [El Pais](http://www.elpais.com), ES, 12/7, http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2013/07/12/catalunya/1373647038_908303.html

Loan for Serbia

Belgrade is set to finally clinch a \$500m budget support loan from Russia, Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić said on July 11 following a meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev. The news is likely to extend Belgrade's hopes of muddling through without agreeing an IMF loan. Russia remains the top investor in the Serbian economy, and in addition to the new budget support loan recently lent Belgrade \$800m to modernise its rail infrastructure. However, the talks between the two PMs were less productive in the political sphere. While Medvedev told Dačić Belgrade can always count on Russian support, he insisted that Serbia must push for a deal with Kosovo, rather than expecting Russia to broker an agreement ([bne.eu](http://www.bne.eu), UK, 11/7).

- [bne.eu](http://www.bne.eu), UK, 11/7, http://www.bne.eu/story5177/Serbia_secures_500m_loan_from_Russia

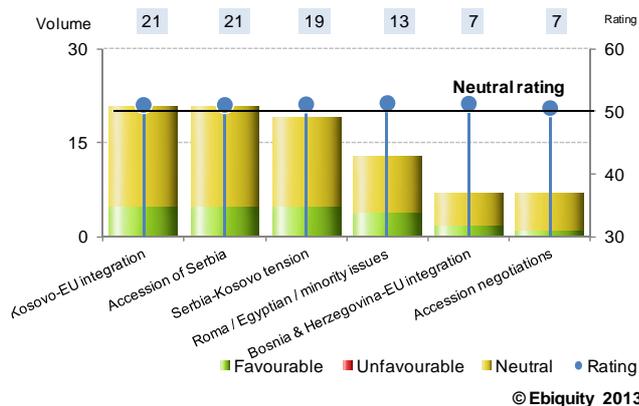
Anniversary of Srebrenica

The Serbian Parliament has paid tribute to the Bosnian victims of the Srebrenica massacre and expressed its sympathy to the relatives. At the same time they also paid tribute to the Serbian victims and expressed sympathies to their relatives as well. This step is significant because Serbia only condemned the Srebrenica genocide in a resolution in March 2010 but did not take a stance on the EU initiative to make 11 July the day of the Srebrenica victims. The related EU proposal was accepted by Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro. The BiH Parliament could not make such a resolution as the Serbian community did not give its consent, so only half of Bosnia and Herzegovina pays tribute to the victims on this day ([Magyar-Nemzet](http://www.magyar-nemzet.hu), HU, 12/7). The anniversary has coincided with dramatic change in the Balkans. Bosnia and Herzegovina's neighbour Croatia joined the European Union on July 1 and Serbia is on the cusp of accession talks following a landmark accord with Kosovo, its overwhelmingly ethnically Albanian former province. Bosnia and Herzegovina, however, trails the pack, still hostage to the ethnic politicking of rival Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders that has stifled development and kept it languishing on the margins of Europe. The European Union, in a statement marking the anniversary, called for further progress ([trust.org](http://www.trust.org), UK, 11/7).

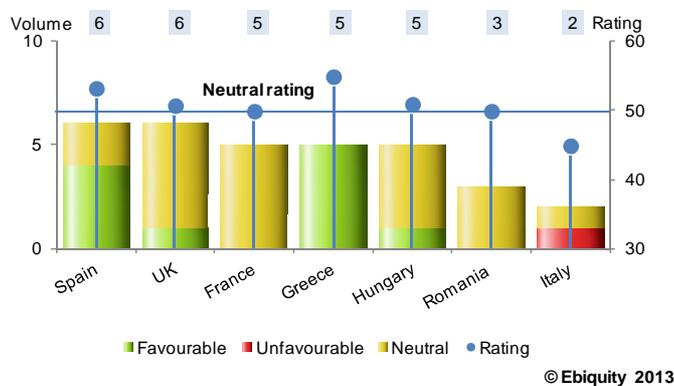
- [Magyar-Nemzet](http://www.magyar-nemzet.hu), HU, 12/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130712/mi/item_162744380.pdf
- [trust.org](http://www.trust.org), UK, 11/7, <http://www.trust.org/item/20130711144243-9ut3p?view=print>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 34 items |
| Rating | 51.3 |
| Favourable % | 32.4% |
| Unfavourable % | 2.9% |
| Neutral % | 64.7% |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo) | 8 |
| Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU) | 7 |
| Hajredin Kuçi (Minister for Justice, Kosovo) | 5 |
| Maria Damanaki (Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC) | 5 |
| Atifete Jahjaga (President, Kosovo) | 2 |

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