

Key Quotes

David Lidington, minister for Europe, writes that *"Extending EU membership to Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, once they meet the conditions for membership, will make a significant contribution to Europe's stability and prosperity. These are goals that are achievable, as Croatia's example shows – and I look forward to welcoming new members to the club. It is clear to me that the enlargement process, with its rigorous approach, is driving a change for the better on the EU's doorstep and helping economies realise their full potential. Now more than ever, it is vital that we keep up the pace"* (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK, 15/7)

<http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/davidlidington/2013/07/15/eu-enlargement-now-for-the-next-steps/>

Summary

Turkey's European credentials

Instead of recognising Turkey's European credentials, the United States continues to see Turkey as a possible 'Islamic democracy' and example to the Middle East but how does Turkey compare with other states run as parliamentary democracies? As in Poland and the Czech Republic, the President has veto powers, particularly in the area of foreign policy. Unlike Poland but as Germany and Italy, the Turkish president is elected by members of parliament. Unlike both Poland and Germany, there is no Turkish second chamber. As in Poland and Germany there is an electoral threshold, but at 10 percent it can, as in Britain's first past the post system, generate parliamentary majorities for parties gaining under 40 per cent of the popular vote. Most countries that joined the EU in 2004 became parliamentary democracies in 1989; but Turkey has held democratic parliamentary elections since 1950. The Turkish police's use of powerful tear gas on the Gezi park protesters was rightly condemned in Brussels, but it was no worse than the forced expulsion of Roma people by the French police in 2009, for which the EU issued a rap on the knuckles. (independent.co.uk, UK, 14/7). Dw.de (DE, 14/7) reports that protests against the Turkish government are continuing, with journalists and artists now joining in. They're speaking out against the violence against journalists and censorship of the press that takes place in Turkey.

- 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?origin=internalSearch>
- dw.de, DE, 14/7, <http://www.dw.de/turkish-journalists-join-up-against-censorship-and-violence/a-16950217>

Opposition to Northern Kosovo plan

Not only are Serb leaders in Northern Kosovo refusing to implement the historic agreement from April, the opposition party Vetevendosje in Priština is also mobilising against it. All in all, the implementation of the Northern Kosovo plan is only making slow progress. (Der Standard, AT, 15/7). Meanwhile in Serbia Moody's Investors Service has assigned B1 local and foreign-currency bond ratings to the government of Serbia. The ratings have a stable outlook (shares.telegraph.co.uk, UK, 15/7).

- Der Standard, AT, 15/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130715/mi/item_163004556.pdf
- shares.telegraph.co.uk, UK, 15/7, <http://shares.telegraph.co.uk/news/article.php?id=4632077&epic=>

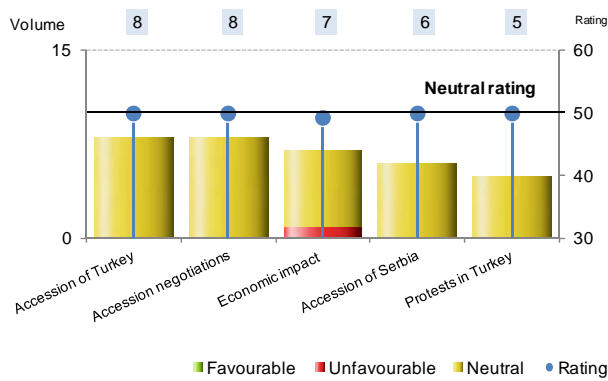
Wine wars

Italy has appointed a "prosecco policeman" - a wine expert whose job is to check that the light and fizzy aperitif is being served properly. The Italians are bracing for a fight with Croatia over a Dalmatian wine called prosek. Brussels has ruled that since its accession, Croatia can no longer market the wine as prosek because the name is too close to prosecco and consumers could be confused. The Croats say the ban is nonsense because prosek is an amber-coloured, sweet dessert wine which bears no resemblance to the straw-coloured, bubbly prosecco. But the Italians are keeping a close watch on whether their neighbours abide by the new law. They point out that they had to cease calling one of their wines Tocai after Hungary joined the EU in 2004, because it was deemed to be too similar in name to a Hungarian wine called Tokaji. "We gave up the name in favour of the Hungarians. Now that the Croats are entering the EU, they have to give up the name prosek in recognition of prosecco, a wine which is known around the world" said Luca Zaia, president of the Veneto region. "If they want to be in the EU, this is how it works" (Daily-Telegraph, UK, 15/7).

- Daily-Telegraph, UK, 15/7, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/industry/10178832/Italy-appoints-a-prosecco-policeman-to-protect-reputation-of-its-famous-fizzy-wine.html>

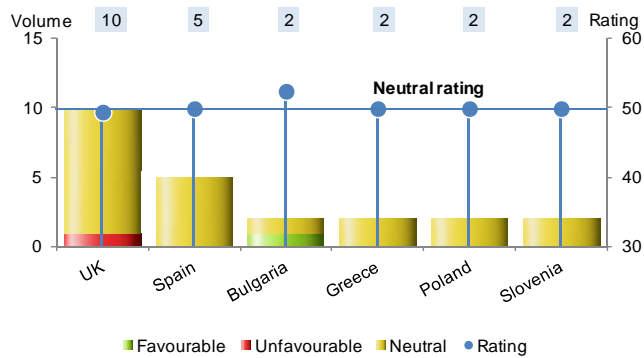
Charts

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Volume	27 items
Rating	50.0
Favourable %	3.7%
Unfavourable %	3.7%
Neutral %	92.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	2
Tarzan Milošević (Politician, Montenegro)	2
Milo Đukanović (Prime Minister, Montenegro)	2

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