



## Summary

Friday's announcement that the EU had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize brought mixed reaction in the media. In support of the accolade President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy said the prize was recognition for the bloc's role as a peacemaker. In contrast, UK daily the Sun took a more critical view: *"Nobel Peace prize? EU have got to be joking! EUROPE keeping the peace? The only time it faced a genuine threat in its own backyard — in the Balkans — it was paralysed by indecision. It was left to American-led Nato, encouraged by Britain, to bail them out. Indeed, it is Nato we must thank for six decades of European stability, not Brussels"* (The Sun, UK, 13/10). The Daily Telegraph took a similar stance, adding that the current relations between Greece and Turkey over the Republic of Cyprus have progressed little: *"'Peace talks' supported by an extensive infrastructure of EU, UN and US aid, started sporadically in the late 1970s and became more intense at the end of the last decade. However, the researchers found that 'very little was achieved despite the large number of meetings,' with neither side seriously interested in changing a 'very comfortable status quo'"* (Sunday-Telegraph, UK, 13/10). Henrik Brors, writing for Swedish paper Dagens Nyheter was equally critical of the EU's track record: *"The EU has a long history of conflict resolution, but that the EU got the prize this year is remarkable. The EU has not gotten the Balkans to meet demands on democratic reforms, Greece is stopping Macedonia's membership and Turkey's membership is also being contested. The Peace Prize could serve as a signal to EU leaders before the summit next week"* (Dagens-Nyheter, SN, 13/10).

- The Sun, UK, 13/10, <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/4586629/Nobel-prize-to-EU-is-ridiculous-and-absurd.html#ixzz29SCydITU>
- Sunday Telegraph, UK, 13/10. No link available
- Dagens-Nyheter, SN, 13/10, <https://web.retriever-info.com/go/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.retriever-info.com%2Fservices%2Farchive.html%3Fmethod%3DdisplayPDF&p=269323&a=32138&sa=2017670&x=2bffa0d8ad136010d7cb9ad64047e8fd&d=08003120121013126943>

There were mixed reactions in Croatia and Germany to the European Commission's latest progress report on Croatia's prospects of becoming a member state by mid-2013. In reaction to President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert's declaration of Croatia as *"clearly not ready yet"*, Croatian newspapers wondered if Germany was still an ally of Croatia. Mr Lammert suggested that the consolidation process within the EU come before enlargement. This found support from Bundestag members Gunther Krichbaum (CDU) and Michael Roth (SPD) (Tagesspiegel, DE, 15/10), however fellow Bundestag member Manuel Sarrazin called Mr Lammert's statement *"irresponsible"* (epochtimes.de, DE, 14/10). Mr Krichbaum, chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Lower House of the German Parliament said *"Today, the country is not ready to join the EU"* citing what he saw as Croatia's considerable shortcomings in its legal system, in its administration and in the fight against corruption (orf.at, AT, 12/10).

- Tagesspiegel, DE, 15/10. No link available
- epochtimes.de, DE, 14/10, <http://www.epochtimes.de/nobelpreisvergabe-zieht-streit-ueber-zukunft-der-eu-nach-sich-1006423.html>
- orf.at, AT, 12/10, <http://orf.at/stories/2145555/>

The parliamentary elections in Montenegro also received a great deal of coverage. The government had called for early elections after the EU announced in June the start of accession negotiations (de.finance.yahoo.com, DE, 14/10). In its annual report, the European Commission noted that Montenegro is *"better"* in the areas of rule of law and the fight against organised crime and corruption (varmatin.com, FR, 14/10). Montenegro's ruling party leader Milo Djukanovic claimed victory in the parliamentary elections, saying he would keep the country on course for eventual membership of the European Union (volkskrant.nl, NL, 14/10). Mr Djukanovic told hundreds of cheering supporters *"As of tomorrow, we will start work on the creation of a government that will continue to lead Montenegro on its path to European integration and work on improving the living standards of every Montenegrin citizen"* (trust.org, UK, 14/10).

- de.finance.yahoo.com, DE, 14/10, <http://de.finance.yahoo.com/nachrichten/montenegro-w%C3%A4hlt-neues-parlament-151000626.html>
- varmatin.com, FR, 14/10, <http://www.varmatin.com/monde/montenegro-la-coalition-sortante-en-tete-des-legislatives.1004494.html>
- volkskrant.nl, NL, 14/10, [http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2664/Nieuws/article/detail/3331659/2012/10/15/Socialisten-claimen-overwinning-Montenegro.dhtml?utm\\_source=RSSReader&utm\\_medium=RSS](http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2664/Nieuws/article/detail/3331659/2012/10/15/Socialisten-claimen-overwinning-Montenegro.dhtml?utm_source=RSSReader&utm_medium=RSS)
- trust.org, UK, 14/10, <http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/news/detail.dot?id=3976b6df-e11e-4ff2-bb6e-896c2b6b3cb4>

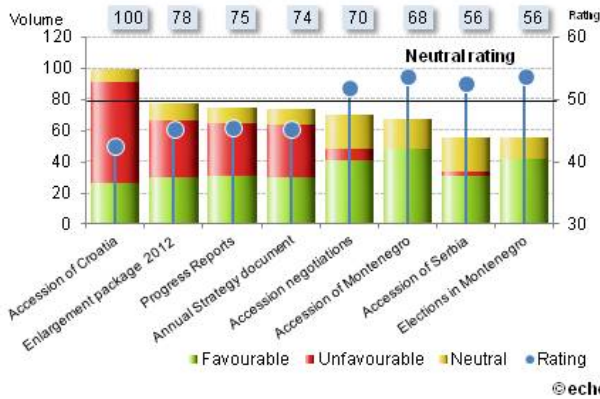
## Key Quotes

**"57.6 percent of Icelanders are against the EU membership while 27.3 percent support it"** (Newsbeast, GR, 16/10).  
<http://www.newsbeast.gr/world/arthro/428854/enas-stous-duo-islandous-kata-tis-edaxis-stin-ee/>

**"Scottish independence? What a joke. Whatever happens, Scotland will either live under the yoke of Westminster and the EU or else under the yoke of the EU – in other words Germany"** (The Scotsman, UK, 16/10) <http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/letters/place-in-europe-1-2577292>

# Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating

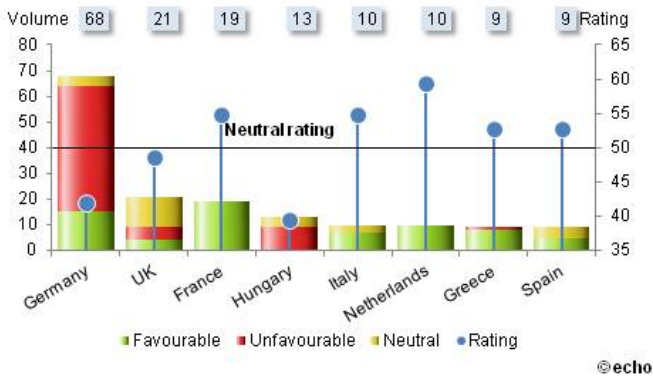


**ELARG: Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	185 items
Rating	47.8
Favourable %	39.5%
Unfavourable %	37.3%
Neutral %	23.2%

©echo

**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



©echo

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Norbert Lammert (President of the Bundestag, Germany)	59
Milo Đukanović (Politician, Montenegro)	49
José Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission)	24
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EC)	16
Günther Oettinger (Commissioner for Energy, EC)	12
Gunther Krichbaum (Bundestag European Affairs Committee, Germany)	11