

Key Quotes

EU urges quick fix to Iceland "**mackerel war**". European Commission head José Manuel Barroso said that Iceland needed to take "**constructive and rapid action**" on the fishing dispute, alongside the next phase in an EU accession process opened in 2009 but stalled since Iceland's recovery from a banking meltdown (Yahoo!, UK, 16/7)

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/eu-urges-quick-fix-iceland-mackerel-war-170120652.html#xUjtCC1>

Slovenian President Borut Pahor assured the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that Slovenia would always support it in its aspirations to join the EU and NATO and wished the country to find as soon as possible a solution to its name dispute with Greece to enable a breakthrough in these efforts. According to a press release from his office, Pahor made a reference to his personal experience in tackling the issues between Slovenia and Croatia, noting that "**it always takes two to have a row and to cooperate**" and that it "**takes a lot of courage to cooperate**" (sloveniatimes.com, SI, 17/7)

<http://www.sloveniatimes.com/president-pahor-calls-for-boosting-ties-with-macedonia>

Summary

Sanctions for the Faroe Islands and possible sanctions for Iceland

The European Union's fisheries chief said she will decide by the end of the month whether to propose sanctions against Iceland in a row over mackerel quotas, which could see Iceland's fishermen banned from landing catches at EU ports. The warning by EU fisheries commissioner Maria Damanaki came on the eve of a visit to Brussels by Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, who in May suspended Iceland's bid to join the 28-nation bloc, pending a referendum. The fishing dispute erupted in 2009 when Iceland - suffering from the collapse of its banking system during the financial crisis - massively increased its mackerel catches to cash in on an increase in stocks in its waters.

Gunnlaugsson has described possible sanctions by the EU against Iceland as "*illegal*" (uk.reuters.com, UK, 15/7). Sanctions over herring fishing will also be brought in against the Faroe Islands by the end of the month. Scotland's Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse, said "*Today's progress on trade measures against both Faroe Islands and Iceland will be welcome news for Scotland's fishermen. For far too long the unsustainable fishing of both these nations has gone unchecked and our fishermen, who have been fishing sustainably, have been paying the price*" (bbc.co.uk, UK, 16/7).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 15/7, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/15/uk-eu-iceland-mackerel-idUKBRE96E0X120130715>
- bbc.co.uk, UK, 16/7, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-23324503>

Progress report for Bulgaria

Mark Gray, a spokesman for the European Commission, has stated that the upcoming oral Cooperation and Verification Mechanism report on Bulgaria will be factual and will not contain political assessments. Gray's statement was a rebuttal of allegations published by the Bulgarian media, that the report will sharply criticise the Bulgarian government and will evaluate it as "*weakened and not showing a political will to work on progress with judicial reform, the fight against corruption and the fight against organised crime*" (novinite.com, BG, 15/7). Mr Gray also explained that Bulgaria's Schengen accession will not be discussed in the report (Duma, BG, 16/7).

- novinite.com, BG, 15/7, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=152053
- Duma, BG, 16/7, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130716/mi/item_163105414.pdf

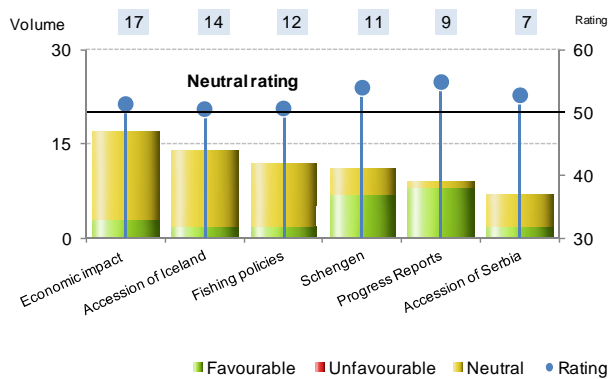
Election Participation in Kosovo

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić has issued a warning to the authorities of Priština to prevent them from influencing participation in the local elections of November 3, by requiring identity documents issued by Kosovo institutions. Such a condition, he said, would be unacceptable for Belgrade, and that's why he is going to talk about this problem at the next meeting with Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi on July 24 in Brussels. Serbs in northern Kosovo usually have identity documents issued by Belgrade, and have no intention of replacing them with those issued of Kosovo. More than once Priština announced that on 3 November it will be possible to vote only by presenting valid identity documents issued by Kosovo institutions. The next elections will help to establish new Serbian autonomous communities in Kosovo, in line with the April 19 agreement on the normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Priština (ansa.it, IT, 15/7). Mr Dačić has stated that his country will not use tanks and guns to keep Kosovo, "*because if we had wanted to do so, we would have done so when Kosovo unilaterally proclaimed independence*" (cotidianul.ro, RO, 15/7).

- ansa.it, IT, 15/7, http://www.ansa.it/nuova_europa/en/news/sections/politics/2013/07/15/Elections-Kosovo-Pristina-Belgrade-clash-documents_9024695.html
- cotidianul.ro, RO, 15/7, <http://www.cotidianul.ro/ivica-dacic-serbia-nu-se-va-opune-cu-tancuri-independentei-kosovo-218114/>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

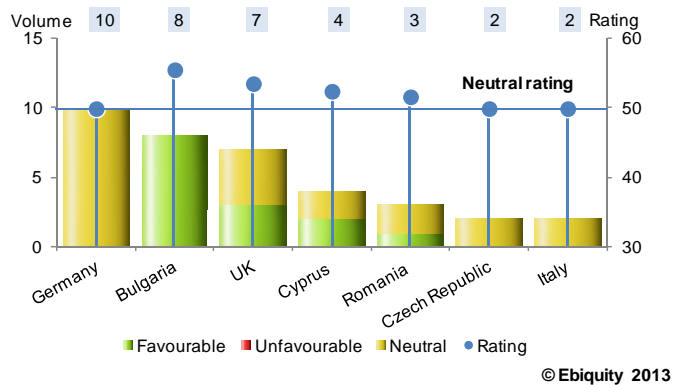


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	37 items
Rating	52.3
Favourable %	37.8%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	62.2%

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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Maria Damanaki (Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC)	11
Mark Gray (Spokesperson, EC)	7
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	4
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson (Prime Minister, Iceland)	3
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	2

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