

Key Quotes

A ruling of the International Court of Justice in the Hague and the resolution of the European Parliament (EP), which was passed a month and a half ago, are the best disproof of the statement of Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras in his letter to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's counterpart Nikola Gruevski that the problem with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's integration was not in Athens but in Brussels. **"According to Samaras, Greece backs Macedonia's [sic] European integration but the European Union (EU) is the one to block the country's accession."** Athens' claim was refuted by the International Court of Justice in the Hague, which ruled in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's favour (focus-fen.net, BG, 19/7).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n311120>

Summary

Recognition of Kosovo

The European Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle, has urged the Serbian authorities to give priority to membership negotiations and reiterated the importance of the practical application of its agreement with Kosovo. *"Serbia has initiated an ambitious journey, but I hope that the Government and citizens succeed in meeting their goals"* said the commissioner on his first visit to Belgrade since the EU decided on June 28 to give its approval at the beginning of the accession negotiations (elconfidencial.com, ES, 17/7). Füle said that Serbia must appoint a chief negotiator to the EU to put the issue on the agenda, as well as implementing the agreement on the normalisation of relations with Kosovo (sta.si, SI, 17/7). The Serbian Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić insisted that the EU *"knows that Serbia will never recognise the independence of Kosovo"* and added *"we expect the negotiating framework not to contain formulations which would imply that Serbia has to recognise Kosovo's independence. This would be absolutely unacceptable for us"* (hirado.hu, HU, 18/7). Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister, Edita Tahiri, suggested that Belgrade was avoiding negotiating the disbanding of parallel institutions in northern Kosovo (focus-news.net, BG, 17/7).

- elconfidencial.com, ES, 17/7, <http://www.elconfidencial.com/ultima-hora-en-vivo/2013/07/insta-serbia-prioridad-negociaciones-adhesion-20130717-177822.html>
- sta.si, SI, 17/7, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1908048>
- hirado.hu, HU, 18/7, http://www.hirado.hu/Hirek/2013/07/18/11/Szerb_miniszterelnok_orszaga_lesz_az_EU_29_tagallam.aspx
- focus-news.net, BG, 17/7, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1806818>

The growing economic power of Turkey

EU candidate Turkey is an attractive option for Middle Eastern investors; Turkish TV dramas have become a huge sensation in the Arab world, drawing growing numbers of Arab tourists to the country. Some have decided to invest in the country, or even settle permanently. Wealthy businessmen from the Gulf are also interested in the Turkish real estate sector, with investments numbering in the hundreds of millions of Euros. Turkey is experiencing a cultural and economic boom, which many attribute to the policies of its ruling Islamic conservative government (france24.com, FR, 17/7).

- france24.com, FR, 17/7, <http://www.france24.com/en/20130717-2013-07-17-0746-wb-en-focus>

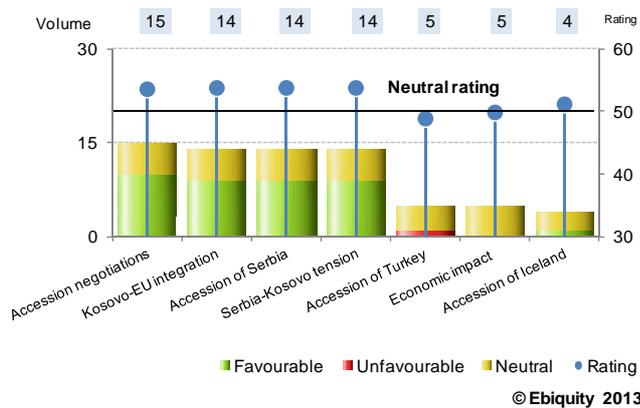
Possible accession of Moldova

On a visit to Moldova President Traian Băsescu of Romania said that Moldova must solve the Trans-Dniester conflict in order to successfully negotiate EU accession, negotiations which could be opened, in his opinion, in about five or six years. Băsescu commented *"It will not be possible to complete EU entry talks without settlement of the Trans-Dniester conflict. Cyprus was the EU's first lesson. A harsh lesson, which led to many problems with Turkey"*. He noted the example of Serbia, which had to give way on Kosovo to start accession negotiations with the EU and also has to solve a complicated relationship with Priština in order to close the negotiation chapters with Brussels. President Băsescu said that with the signing, at the November summit in Vilnius, of association agreements and free trade with the EU Chisinau will be on an *"irreversible"* path. He said that EU membership was a difficult journey with many reforms of institutions, often imposed by the Government because it is extremely difficult to wait until a country's society understands the need for reforms" (realitatea.net, RO, 17/7). In response to the question *"Do you think Moldova could potentially integrate into the EU together with Trans-Dniester and with the Russian troops present there?"* Băsescu replied *"Categorically no. The EU will not repeat the error it made with Cyprus"* (rferl.org, CZ, 17/7).

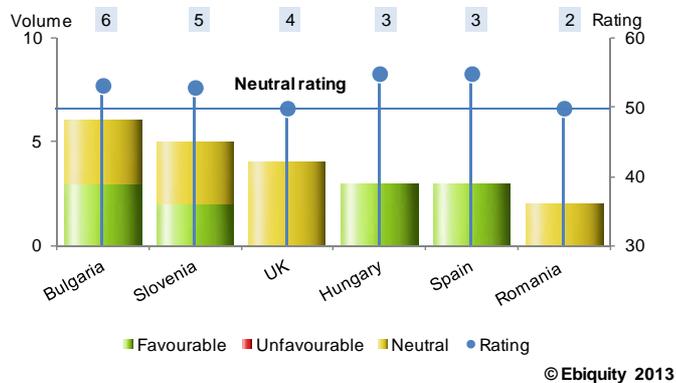
- realitatea.net, RO, 17/7, http://www.realitatea.net/basescu-fara-rezolvarea-conflictului-transnistrean-r-moldova-nu-va-incheia-negociile-pentru-ue_1227571.html
- rferl.org, CZ, 17/7, <http://www.rferl.org/content/romanian-basescu-moldova-transdniester/25049122.html>

Charts

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Volume	29 items
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Favourable %	41.4%
Unfavourable %	3.5%
Neutral %	55.1%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	10
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	8
Traian Băsescu (President, Romania)	3
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	2
Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson (Prime Minister, Iceland)	2
Borut Pahor (President, Slovenia)	2
Gjorge Ivanov (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	2

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