

## Key Quotes

Belgrade and Priština have reached an agreement on municipal elections in Kosovo. ***"The two leaders discussed the preparation of municipal elections scheduled for 3 November and agreed that all concrete actions should be undertaken to make sure the elections take place with good turnout,"*** Catherine Ashton said in a brief statement ([romanalibera.ro](http://www.romanalibera.ro), RO, 25/7)

<http://www.romanalibera.ro/actualitate/europa/belgrad-si-pristina-au-ajuns-la-un-acord-privind-organizarea-alegerilor-municipale-din-kosovo-308509.html>

## Summary

### Bulgarian visit to Serbia

During his working visit to Belgrade, the President of the Bulgarian Parliament Mihail Mikov told his Serbian counterpart Nebojša Stevanović that Bulgaria supported Serbia on its road to EU accession and saw it as a way of boosting stability in the region and further improvement in good neighbourly relations. Mikov suggested the creation of a permanent mechanism of inter-parliamentary interaction in European affairs. Stevanović remarked that for Serbia accession to the EU was a historic chance for higher living standards for citizens. Both sides confirmed readiness to sign a Good Neighbour, Friendship and Cooperation Agreement soon (bnr.bg, BG, 23/7). Mikov also suggested that Bulgaria share its experience in the implementation of European law with Serbia (Telegraf, BG, 24/7). The two counterparts also discussed speeding up the construction of border checkpoints and adequate infrastructure (Bulgarian-National-Radio, BG, 23/7).

- bnr.bg, BG, 23/7, <http://bnr.bg/sites/en/News2013/Pages/2307%20%D0%B4%D0%BA%2011.aspx>
- Telegraf, BG, 24/7, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130724/mi/item\\_163905290.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130724/mi/item_163905290.pdf)
- Bulgarian-National-Radio, BG, 23/7 (link not available)

### Dačić and Thaçi meet in Brussels to discuss local elections in Kosovo

Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo, Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaçi, have met in Brussels for a new round of negotiations part of the framework for the normalisation of relations between the two countries. The focus of the meeting was preparing for local elections in Kosovo (sta.si, SI, 24/7).

- sta.si, SI, 24/7, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=r&id=1909779>

### Implementation of the March 1 agreement by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

European integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is dependent on the full implementation of the agreement signed on March 1 between the political parties. This was reiterated by EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle during the tenth EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Stabilisation and Association Council on Tuesday in Brussels. Füle said *"we had welcomed the fact that the Committee of Inquiry was established, so I regret to hear now that the Chair has tendered his resignation"* (ansamed.info, IT, 23/7). The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Fatmir Besimi said: *"European integration is a strategic priority for Macedonia and we remain focused on this process"* (abc.es, ES, 23/7).

- ansamed.info, IT, 23/7, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/07/23/EU-wants-Macedonia-fully-implement-March-1-agreement\\_9064310.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/07/23/EU-wants-Macedonia-fully-implement-March-1-agreement_9064310.html)
- abc.es, ES, 23/7, <http://www.abc.es/agencias/noticia.asp?noticia=1464913>

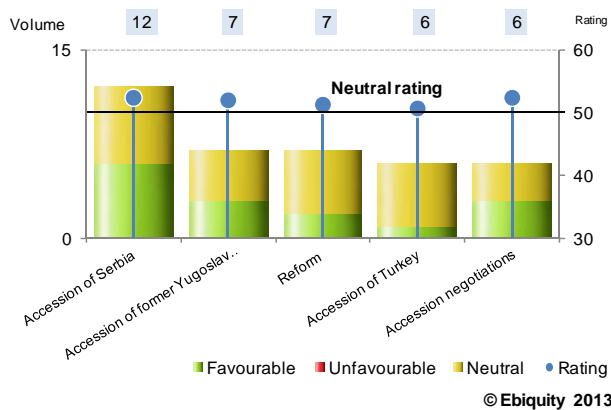
### Turkish Foreign Minister in Warsaw

Poland's foreign minister told his Turkish counterpart in Warsaw that if it was up to him, new chapters in Turkey's negotiations with the EU would have begun in the second half of 2011. There was a lack of political consensus, Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski said before a lecture by Turkey's diplomatic chief Ahmet Davutoğlu. Sikorski said *"it is in the EU's interests to begin credible talks"* with Turkey on its accession to the bloc. Talks will begin again only after the European Commission publishes its latest report in October on conditions within Turkey and what reforms the EU thinks necessary. Foreign Minister Davutoğlu said that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan plans to visit Poland in the coming months and in the spring of next year President Bronisław Komorowski will be making a visit to Istanbul and Ankara. *"Both Turkey and Poland are rising powers of Europe in terms of their political stability and economic development. Indeed, at a time of political and economic crises, the performance, stability and development of Turkey and Poland constitutes a source of hope for Europe"* Davutoğlu told reporters (thenews.pl, PL, 24/7)

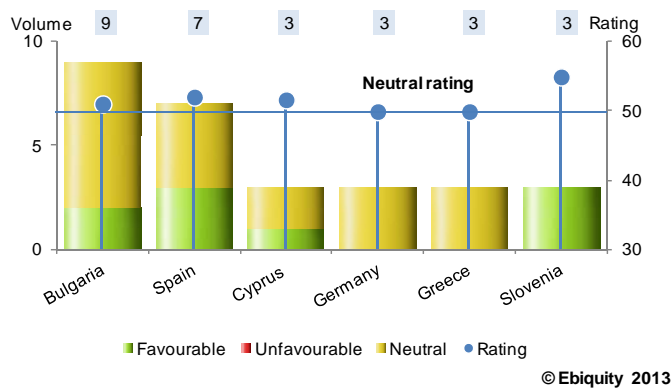
- thenews.pl, PL, 24/7, <http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/142272,Poland-for-reopening-Turkey-%E2%80%93-EU-talks>

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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	10
Mihail Mikov (Chairman National Assembly, Bulgaria)	7
Nebojša Stefanović (President National Assembly, Serbia)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

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