

## Key Quotes

**"Bulgaria supports the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU and NATO membership but insists on a good neighbourly relations agreement first,"** Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski stated (Trud, BG, 29/7)

<http://www.trud.bg/Article.asp?ArticleId=2184399>

## Summary

### No peace, no accession

On Thursday eight western Balkan presidents held their first-ever summit, aimed at promoting cooperation and getting more countries into the European Union, two decades after the bloody breakup of Yugoslavia. The informal gathering in Slovenia, attended also by French President François Hollande, brought together the Albanian president and seven counterparts from the former Yugoslavia - including Serbia and Kosovo, whose ties remain frayed. Hollande said he supported the countries joining the bloc - as Slovenia and most recently Croatia have done - but that more work had to be done on reconciliation and on political, economic and institutional reforms. *"Not everything has been resolved in this region and there remain issues requiring vigilance and attention"* he told a news conference with Slovenian President Borut Pahor. *"But,"* he added, *"I came here to say to the eight heads of state that as the countries in the Balkans seek integration into the European Union, France is on their side"* (eubusiness.com, UK, 25/7). The summit was organised by the presidents of the only two former Yugoslav states that have joined the EU, Slovenia's Borut Pahor and Croatia's Ivo Josipović, and backed by the French president (focus-fen.net, BG, 25/7). While Mr Hollande emphasised France's commitment to the enlargement of the EU, he also stressed the conditions saying that *"As long as conflicts are not solved, there can be no EU integration"* (Kleine Zeitung, AT, 26/7).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 25/7, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/slovenia-france.q1c>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 25/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n311604>
- Kleine Zeitung, AT, 26/7, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130726/mi/item\\_164117568.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130726/mi/item_164117568.pdf)

### South-East European Cooperation Process invitation for Kosovo

Romania, which is president of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), will invite Kosovo to the meetings of this regional structure even if it does not acknowledge its independence, but in an informal Gymnich type format, without a plate bearing the name of the state and without a flag, said Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Titus Corlăţean on Thursday. *"Obviously we are going to invite Kosovo as well to the SEECP meetings, but in the format agreed on with Serbia. What matters is the spirit of international cooperation, it is important for us to support the European processes, Kosovo included, and Romania's current Government has, in the past few months, adopted a constructive position"* said Corlăţean. A plenary session of the European Parliament on April 18 approved a resolution requesting the five EU member states that have not yet acknowledged Kosovo's independence, Romania among them, to do so. Subsequently Premier Victor Ponta said that Romania must be on the side of the European family on this question. (actmedia.eu, RO, 26/7).

- actmedia.eu, RO, 26/7, <http://actmedia.eu/daily/corlatean-romania-to-invite-kosovo-to-seeep-meetings-but-in-informal-format-agreed-on-with-serbia/47313>

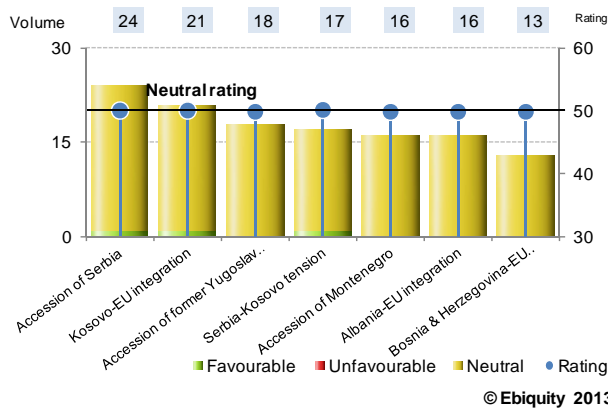
### Name dispute

France is offering help in a conflict resolution on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's name. Stressing the quality of relations between France and Greece, François Hollande said that France is ready to seek a solution (mediafax.ro, RO, 26/7). It is hard to hold real negotiations with Greece, said the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, speaking in parliament. He indicated that *"The major problem is that we, as well as UN mediator Matthew Nimetz, have problems holding talks. That is why the most important problem is to establish a dialogue,"* the Prime Minister remarked (focus-news.net, BG, 26/7).

- mediafax.ro, RO, 26/7, <http://www.mediafax.ro/externe/franta-se-ofera-sa-ajute-la-reglementarea-conflictului-privind-numele-macedoniei-11158649>
- focus-news.net, BG, 26/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n311653>

## Charts

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

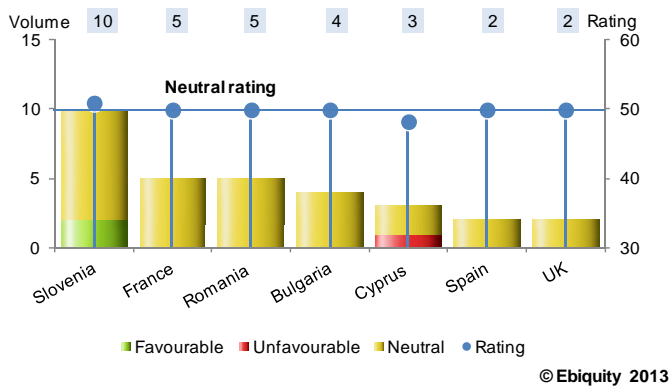


**ELARG: Highlights**  
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|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Volume</b>         | 38 items |
| <b>Rating</b>         | 50.3     |
| <b>Favourable %</b>   | 7.9%     |
| <b>Unfavourable %</b> | 2.6%     |
| <b>Neutral %</b>      | 89.5%    |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources                                    | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| François Hollande (President, France)                            | 24                 |
| Borut Pahor (President, Slovenia)                                | 23                 |
| Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)                               | 13                 |
| Tomislav Nikolić (President Serbia)                              | 11                 |
| Atifete Jahjaga (President, Kosovo)                              | 8                  |
| Gjorge Ivanov (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) | 8                  |
| Filip Vujanović (President, Montenegro)                          | 8                  |
| Titus Corlăţean (Foreign Minister, Romania)                      | 8                  |
| Željko Komšić (Croat Member of the BiH Presidency)               | 8                  |

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