

Key Quotes

"I warn that every revision of Bulgaria's position about the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU membership is dangerous and harmful for the national interests," said leader of Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Boyko Borisov. *"Bulgaria has to unconditionally support the Euro integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on its way to European values. This position should no way be at the expense of national interests of Bulgaria though, or as a compromise with our historical and cultural heritage,"* he added (Focus News, BG, 29/7)

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n311895>

Summary

Bulgaria ready to sign a friendship treaty with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Bulgarian Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski has reiterated his country's support for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's efforts to join NATO and the European Union. Oresharski, who met with his Macedonian counterpart Nikola Gruevski on Sunday, declared that Bulgaria is willing to sign a friendship treaty with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, adding that he hoped the treaty would be produced swiftly. Relations between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been strained since late 2012, when Bulgaria joined Greece in vetoing an EU decision to set a starting date for accession negotiations (novinite.com, BG, 28/7). Oresharski commented that political differences between the two countries should not be an obstacle to their bilateral economic and trade relations. Mr Gruevski said the working meeting would produce projects, ideas and solutions which would improve relations between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the future (Duma, BG, 29/7).

- novinite.com, BG, 28/7, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=152410
- Duma, BG, 29/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130729/mi/item_164339669.pdf

Protests by the Bulgarian Nationalist Party

In Kyustendil, where the Prime Ministers held their meeting several dozen supporters of the Bulgarian nationalist party, VMRO, staged a rally. The nationalists attempted to present Nikola Gruevski with the Bulgarian national flag – but were stopped by police. The party said that it wanted to show that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was – and still is – Bulgarian. VMRO Deputy Chairman Angel Dzhambazki demanded that the authorities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia guarantee the rights of Bulgarians in the country. Since the early Middle Ages until the first half of the 20th century, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its Slavic population were considered part of the Bulgarian nation. This is why, from its National Liberation in 1878 until 1944, Bulgaria waged five wars attempting to unite all of the Bulgarian-populated lands in the Balkans after the San Stefano Treaty of March 1878, which provided one state for almost all Bulgarian-populated regions, was revised three months later by the European Great Powers in the Treaty of Berlin leaving the regions of Thrace and Macedonia [sic] out of Bulgaria (novinite.com, BG, 28/7). Following the meeting the Bulgarian Prime Minister said *"It would be good if we could organise joint celebrations of single historical events and personalities which are being differently interpreted in the two countries in order to iron differences between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"* (24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 29/7).

- novinite.com, BG, 28/7, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=152409
- 24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 29/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130729/mi/item_164355550.pdf

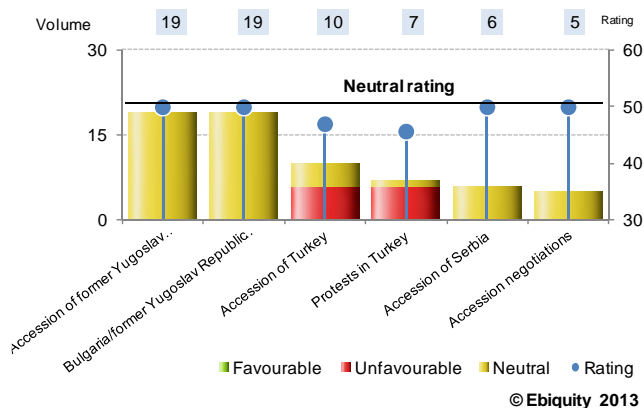
Erdoğan lashes out at EU and UN over Egypt

"Where are those who made so much fuss when the Turkish police legally and justly used water and tear gas" Erdoğan said. *"Where are they now in the face of the military coup and the recent massacre in Egypt?"* Erdoğan targeted explicitly the European Union and the United Nations (morgenpost.de, DE, 28/7). The European Union is preparing, according to the Phileleftheros and ANT1 correspondent in Brussels, a tempting package of "gifts" to the Erdoğan government, to be offered during the second half of the year. The aim of the package is to rebuild EU-Turkey relations following the reactions to the suppression of anti-government protests in Turkey and allow for the restart of accession talks with Turkey that have been frozen for 37 months (Phileleftheros, GR, 28/7).

- morgenpost.de, DE, 28/7, http://www.morgenpost.de/newsticker/dpa_nt/infoline_nt/thema_nt/article118455540/Erdoqan-wirft-EU-und-UN-Doppelzuengigkeit-vor.html
- Phileleftheros, GR, 28/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130728/mi/item_164348693.pdf

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

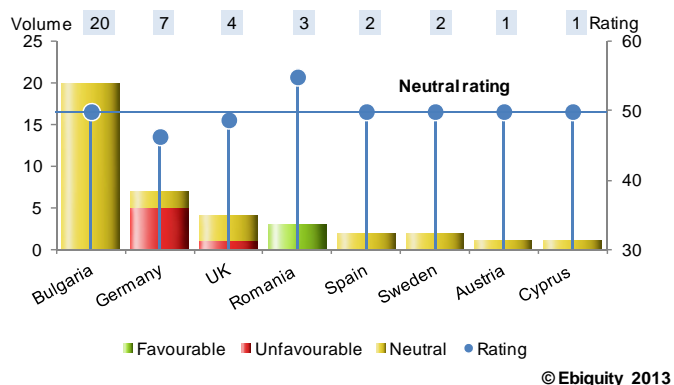


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

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|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 40 items |
| Rating | 49.6 |
| Favourable % | 7.5% |
| Unfavourable % | 15% |
| Neutral % | 77.5% |

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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 |
|---|--------------------|
| Nikola Gruevski (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,) | 19 |
| Plamen Oresharski (Prime Minister, Bulgaria) | 19 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey) | 7 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 4 |
| Victor Ponta (Prime Minister, Romania) | 3 |
| Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia) | 2 |
| Mlađan Dinkić (Finance Minister, Serbia) | 2 |

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