

## Key Quotes

The Economist writes *"Serbs in the rest of Kosovo have come to terms with the authorities, but those in the north still talk of resistance. They see themselves as a Balkan equivalent of the village in Gaul where Asterix resisted the Romans. Except that the Serbs have no magic potion. The Serbian government, aware that it must implement its deal to secure the start of EU accession talks next January, is cutting cash. After local elections in November the four Serb-dominated northern municipalities will officially become part of Kosovo's system again"* (The Economist, UK, 2/8)

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21582574-serbs-north-are-left-high-and-dry-deal-bordering-along-ibar>

## Summary

### No early elections in Serbia despite coalition dropping Finance Minister

Serbia averted an early election when the largest party in the coalition government agreed to the sacking of the finance minister yesterday. Deputy prime minister, Aleksandar Vučić, who heads the largest party, the Serbian Progressive Party, said his party had accepted Mr Dačić's proposal at a meeting on Wednesday. *"Elections are not the best solution for Serbia. Facing a myriad of important contracts, stability is important,"* Mr Vučić said. (heraldscotland.com, UK, 1/8). He said the remaining coalition partners would decide on candidates for the cabinet reshuffle by August 20. Without the 16 seats of Dinkić's URS, the coalition retains a slim majority in parliament and avoids a snap election which would almost certainly have delayed its talks on joining the European Union (uk.reuters.com, UK, 31/7). *"I wanted to preserve the coalition, but Dačić did not"* Vučić explained, but he refused to say why Dačić wanted to get rid of Dinkić, although many wonder why such a marginal party was given such a powerful portfolio in the first place (bne.eu, DE, 31/7).

- heraldscotland.com, UK, 1/8, <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/serbia-sacks-finance-minister.21747733>
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 31/7, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/31/uk-serbia-government-idUKBRE96U0DK20130731>
- bne.eu, DE, 31/7, [http://www.bne.eu/story5243/No\\_early\\_elections\\_in\\_Serbia\\_despite\\_coalition\\_ditching\\_finance\\_minister](http://www.bne.eu/story5243/No_early_elections_in_Serbia_despite_coalition_ditching_finance_minister)

### Government adviser for Serbia as part of its drive against corruption

Serbia has asked Dominique Strauss-Kahn to become a government adviser as part of its drive against corruption. The disgraced former head of the International Monetary Fund was approached because of his ability to reassure international investors after the finance minister was sacked this week, ministers said. Aleksandar Vučić said that a foreigner without ties to domestic politics would be less inclined to corruption. *"We need these people who know more than us, and from whom our people can learn a lot"*. Serbia will need to show that it is fighting corruption when it begins talks to Join the EU in January, he said. (The Times, UK, 1/8). However, Mr Strauss-Kahn's fees are said to be extremely high and if he does not get the post, Mr Vučić may turn to a British financial adviser. Initial approaches have been made, it is believed, to several figures in London but Mr Strauss-Kahn remains the first choice. A senior political source in Belgrade said: *"There is no point in pretending that the economy is not in a mess and we need someone with the economic authority and knowledge who can be of assistance and Strauss-Kahn fulfils those conditions"*, the source also acknowledged that Mr Strauss-Kahn suffers from having *"baggage"* from his private life (Independent, UK, 1/8).

- thetimes.co.uk, UK, 1/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130801/mi/item\\_164627804.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130801/mi/item_164627804.pdf)
- Independent, UK, 1/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130801/mi/item\\_164627948.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130801/mi/item_164627948.pdf)

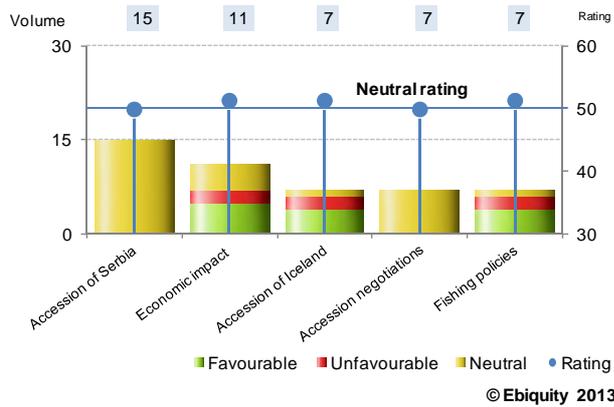
### Economic war on the high seas

Economic war came to Europe's high seas yesterday as the EU moved to punish the Faroe Islands for allegedly plundering stocks of herring. The planned trade curbs against the nation of fewer than 50,000 people marks the EU's first resort to sanctions in a fishing quota dispute and paves the way for moves on Iceland over mackerel. The dispute could cripple the Faroese economy and is one of the biggest impediments to Iceland joining the EU. Sigurgeir Thorgeirsson, Iceland's leading mackerel negotiator, said he considered any type of sanction *"as illegal and not in line with international obligations"* (Financial Times, UK, 1/8).

- Financial Times, UK, 1/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130801/mi/item\\_164627519.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130801/mi/item_164627519.pdf)

## Charts

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



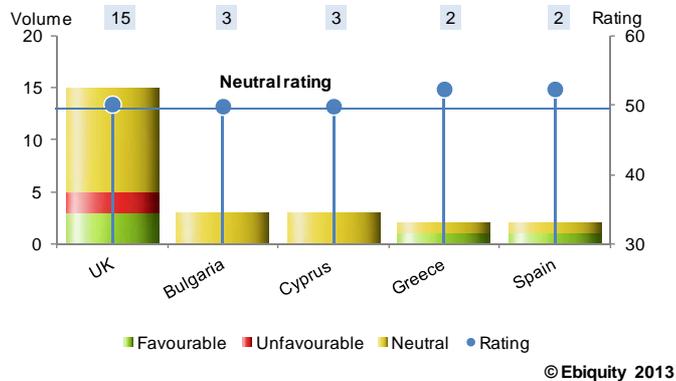
**ELARG: Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	29 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	17.2%
Unfavourable %	6.9%
Neutral %	75.9%

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

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



ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	12
Dominique Strauss-Kahn (former Head of the IMF)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Mlađan Dinkić (Finance Minister, Serbia)	7
Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson (Fisheries minister, Iceland)	3
Maria Damanaki (Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC)	3

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**Daily reporting will resume following the summer break on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August**