

Key Quotes

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's prime minister threatened on Saturday to call a snap election unless the main opposition party did more to resolve a political deadlock that is damaging its European Union membership prospects. **"The second option is to convene parliament on Monday to vote to disband it and call an early election for October,"** Nikola Gruevski said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 25/8) <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/25/uk-macedonia-politics-deadlock-idUKBRE97NOBG20130825?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

Historian Brendan Simms: **"The admission of Turkey would be highly desirable in principle, but – in its current Islamist or alternative secular nationalist incarnations – sadly impossible"** (independent.co.uk, 23/8) <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/this-weeks-big-questions-can-angela-merkel-save-the-european-union-should-turkey-be-allowed-to-join-8782657.html>

Summary

Iceland, threatened by EU sanctions, nears dropping membership bid

Iceland, which is in the midst of a fishing spat that could end in trade sanctions from the European Union, indicated Thursday that it is close to abandoning its bid to join the 28 nation bloc. The foreign ministry said it had received an opinion from its constitutional advisors that the government was not bound by a 2009 parliamentary vote to launch the membership talks. *"After receiving this opinion the foreign minister has decided to consider dissolving the negotiation committee"* the ministry said in a statement. Iceland suspended its accession talks in January ahead of parliamentary elections, and they have not been resumed after the victory in April of a centre-right coalition opposed to joining the EU. The new government has promised a referendum on EU membership, which polls show Icelanders would probably now reject, but some members just want to abandon the talks. Iceland was expected to have little difficulty in its membership talks except for fishing issues. Talks on fishing policy were never opened and a fishing dispute over Iceland unilaterally increasing its mackerel quotas in 2010 is likely to end in EU trade sanctions (eubusiness.com, UK, 23/8). On 16 August, Iceland called on the EU to halt its *"campaign of threats"* (la-croix.com, FR, 22/8).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 23/8, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/iceland-fishing.qac>
- la-croix.com, FR, 22/8, <http://www.la-croix.com/Actualite/Economie-Entreprises/Economie/UE-l-Islande-envisage-de-renoncer-a-l-adhesion-2013-08-22-1001336>

Election in Kosovo

Serbian Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić, has threatened to boycott the municipal elections in Kosovo next November if the authorities insist on keeping sovereign territory emblems on the ballot paper. He said that the step would undermine the neutral status of Kosovo, as reflected in the standardisation agreement signed by Belgrade and Priština in April. Dačić, who met in Belgrade with the ambassadors of the USA, UK, France, Italy and Germany, called for *"serious measures"* from the EU concerning the legal status of Kosovo. He also announced that the implementation of that agreement and the local elections to be held in Kosovo on November 3 will dominate the new round of dialogue with Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, scheduled for next Tuesday in Brussels. (ideal.es, ES, 22/8). In addition Serbia is still regularly paying for the foreign debt of companies in Kosovo (kisalfold.hu, HU, 23/8).

- ideal.es, ES, 22/8, http://www.ideal.es/agencias/20130822/mas-actualidad/internacional/serbia-amenaza-boicotear-comicios-kosovo_201308221951.html
- kisalfold.hu, HU, 23/8, http://www.kisalfold.hu/kulfold_hirek/szerbia_mindmaiq_rendszeresen_fizeti_a_koszovoi_vallalatok_kulfoldi_adossagat/2346628/?utm_source=rssfeed

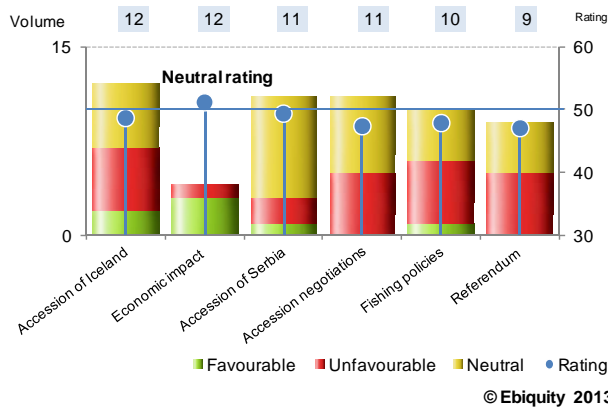
Arrest warrant for Josip Perković

European Commissioner for Justice Viviane Reding's ultimatum to Croatia concerning the European arrest warrant for Josip Perković expires on Friday. Ms Reding does not agree with Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanović who argues this is not a European matter. She calls Croatia's conduct a *"serious infraction"* of European law (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 23/8).

- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 23/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130823/mi/item_166572228.pdf

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

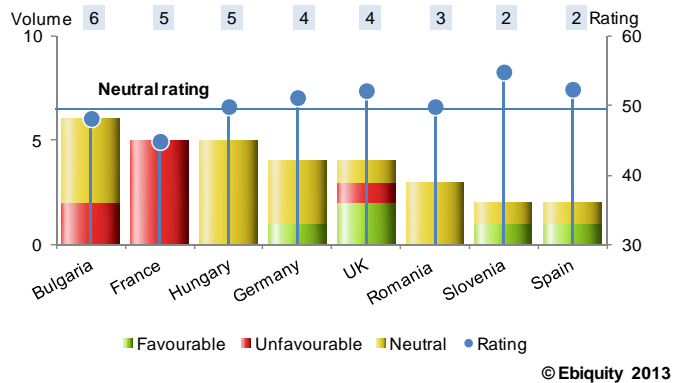


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	32 items
Rating	49.8
Favourable %	18.8%
Unfavourable %	25%
Neutral %	56.2%

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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
Viviane Reding (Justice Commissioner, EC)	3
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	3
Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia)	2
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	2
Maria Damanaki (Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC)	2

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