



Key Quotes

"This is a milestone in Serbia's path towards the EU. Serbia now has a comprehensive framework in place to move closer to the EU and to prepare for its future participation in the Single Market", said European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle ([bankier.pl](http://www.bankier.pl), PL, 1/9)

<http://www.bankier.pl/wiadomosc/Serbia-coraz-blizej-Unii-Europejskiej-2926655.html>

Summary

Positive steps taken by leaders in Belgrade and Priština

Positive steps taken by leaders in Belgrade and Priština in recent months have led to historic agreements and fundamental progress towards normalising relations, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Kosovo Farid Zarif said. He told the Security Council via video conference on August 29 2013 that implementation of the historic April 19 agreement and each of its elements is a *"delicate process that demands sustained efforts and focus"*. But Zarif, who is also the head of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), also cautioned *"It is essential for the parties to keep their focus on the implementation of what has been agreed, without introducing additional fundamental issues which are, at present, outside of the political dialogue"* (sofiaglobe.com, BG, 30/8).

- sofiaglobe.com, BG, 30/8, <http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/08/30/un-envoy-serbia-and-kosovo-making-positive-steps-towards-normal-relations/>

Serbia ready to start negotiations for EU membership, says Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić

Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić said that his country was prepared to start negotiations with the EU regarding its membership of the Union. He said that the country was ready to complete the talks quickly, but it would never acknowledge the independence of Kosovo, regardless of whether this would pose a threat over the country's accession to the EU, the Internet edition of the Serbian newspaper Politika reported. *"We set the European rules in our country and have initiated a battle against the crime in all areas. We have also carried out judicial reforms. I think that Serbia is now ready to start EU negotiation talks"*, President Nikolić added (bnr.bg, BG, 30/8).

- bnr.bg, BG, 30/8, <http://bnr.bg/sites/en/Lifestyle/BulgariaAndEurope/Pages/300813BalkanDevelopments.aspx>

No country code for Kosovo

Kosovo is still waiting for its own country code; this costs the country millions and there has been no change after 15 rounds of negotiations in Brussels. Following the latest round moderated by the EU as before, the population of two million Kosovars will not have a phone line with a Kosovo prefix in the foreseeable future. It is now five and a half years since Kosovo declared independence. But the fixed network which not even five percent of the population have access to, is accessible only under Serbian prefix. Since 2000, Telekom Kosovo has paid up to 1.4 million euros to Monaco Telecom for the use of their services. From the money paid and lost to the country you could have built 200 hospitals, suggests the former Deutsche Telekom CEO Agron Dida (Saarbrücker Zeitung, DE, 29/8).

- Saarbrücker Zeitung, DE, 29/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130829/mi/item_167215080.pdf

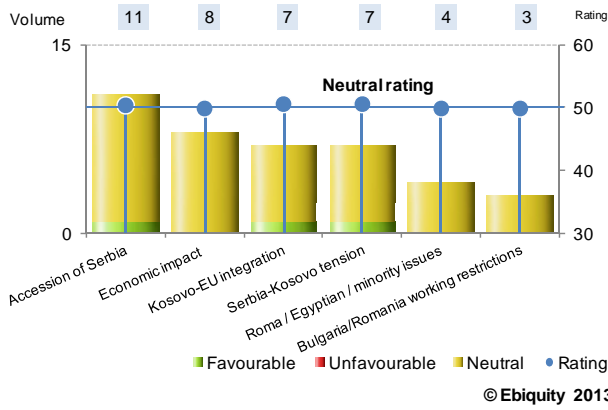
Minorities in Germany

Eastern European migrant workers face slave labour in Germany; The number of immigrants to Germany has risen from a few thousand only years ago to more than 70,000 in 2012. According to a study by the Institute for Labour Market and Career Research (IAB), which is connected to the German government's Labour Agency, the number of Bulgarian and Romanian immigrants in Germany is expected to rise to between 100,000 and 180,000 when the labour market within the EU is opened fully in 2014. Brutal exploitation awaits many of these workers in Germany. Having left their homes to avoid the social catastrophe caused by the policies of privatisation and austerity enforced by the EU and International Monetary Fund. They are also denied minimal social rights in Germany (rinf.com, UK, 30/8).

- rinf.com, UK, 30/8, <http://rinf.com/alt-news/breaking-news/eastern-european-migrant-workers-face-slave-labour-in-germany/64174/>

Charts

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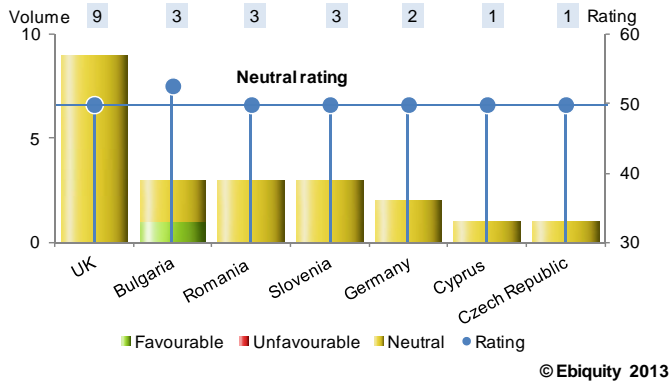
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	2
Traian Băsescu (President, Romania)	2
Farid Zarif (UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Kosovo & Head of UNMIK)	2
Mark Harper (Immigration Minister, UK)	2

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