

Key Quotes

"It is France's desire that Serbia become the 29th member of the EU," said French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Thierry Repentin (Expres.gr, 2/9)

http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/726604oz_20130902726604.php3

Summary

Stabilisation and Association Agreement for Serbia

The European Integration Office announced that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia entered into force on 1 September, after the European Union on the 24 July informed Serbia that it had completed the process of ratification. Bodies that will monitor the implementation of SAA will be formed, comprising of representatives from both Serbia and the EU. On the day of the start of the SAA, the Interim Trade Agreement that was in force from 1 January 2009 will be terminated (balkans.com, CY, 2/9). Under the new agreement, Serbia will have to adjust its legislation and remove tariffs on goods from the EU. Belgrade will not be able to receive agricultural subsidies until accession. Negotiation talks are to take place in January (O1, AT, 1/9). Aleksandar Vučić, Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister, appointed Tanja Mišević to lead the EU negotiations, after consultations with Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić (athina984.gr, 2/9).

- balkans.com, CY, 2/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=181137>
- O1, AT, 1/9, (link not available)
- athina984.gr, 2/9, <http://www.athina984.gr/node/256197>

Momcilo Krajisnik returns to Republika Srpska

Several thousand people turned out in Republika Srpska to welcome home Momcilo Krajisnik, a key wartime political leader of the Bosnian Serbs who was convicted of war crimes. Well-wishers waved flags and sang Serbian nationalist songs as Krajisnik, 68, returned to Pale, near Sarajevo. Krajisnik, who was arrested in 2000, was convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on charges of persecuting and forcibly expelling non-Serbs, and crimes against humanity, during the 1992-95 war. His 27-year prison sentence was reduced on appeal (rferl.org, CZ, 29/8).

- rferl.org, CZ, 29/8, <http://www.rferl.org/content/serbia-krajisnik/25091290.html>

EU invites Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

According to Phileleftheros (CY, 2/9) Turkey is being flooded with invitations from the EU, calling on Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to visit Brussels after the opening of the Turkish accession chapter on regional policy which is expected on 21 October. Unnamed EU sources state that top EU ranks believe it is time for substantial movement in the accession negotiations and the reviving of relations with Turkey, noting that Erdoğan has not visited Brussels since 2009.

Phileleftheros, CY, 2/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130901/mi/item_167563430.pdf

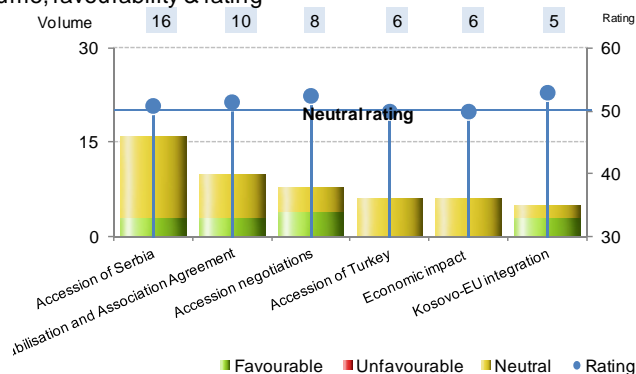
Skopje recreating the past

In the past three years the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has undergone a major building programme. The Skopje 2014 project includes a series of reconstructed neoclassical civic buildings, new bridges and, at either end of the medieval Stone Bridge, statues of sandalled Greek warriors commonly thought to be Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great. The simplified, doll-like features and gigantism of these figures imply an unfamiliarity with the very western culture that, paradoxically, they celebrate. Skopje 2014 is closely identified with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and his VMRO-DPMNE party which is pro-Europe and pro-Nato and describes itself as Christian democratic. As that implies, it is usually seen as sidelining the country's Muslim citizens, even though the Democratic Party of Turks is a member of its coalition government. The new Skopje looks backwards, in a manner known locally as "*antiquation*," to a resolutely western classical antiquity that the government of today claims as the country's own. This claim is exacerbating already difficult relations with Greece, Bulgaria and, to a certain extent, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Albanian community (New-Statesman, UK, 30/8).

- New-Statesman, UK, 30/8, (link not available)

Charts

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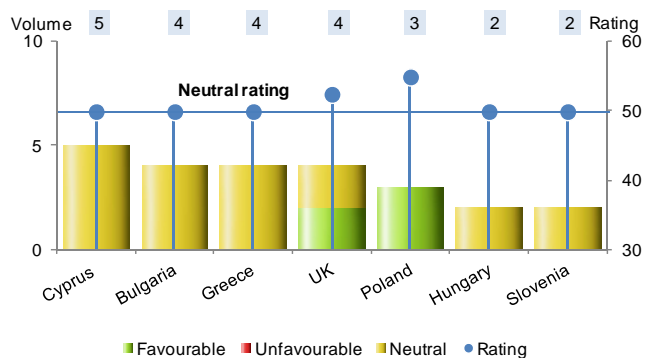
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Volume	30 items
Rating	50.8
Favourable %	16.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	83.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	6
Tanja Mišćević (Lead negotiator EU membership talks, Serbia)	6
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3

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