



Key Quotes

"National language policies are not regulated by EU law and are within the jurisdiction of the member state," said Dennis Abbott, European Commission Spokesperson for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth (rtvslo.si, 3/9), in response to protests in the Croatia town of Vukovar where signs written in Serbian Cyrillic script have been torn down. The signs had been put up because of a law that makes bilingual signs mandatory in any area where more than one-third of the population belongs to an ethnic minority.

<http://www.rtvsllo.si/svet/foto-policija-ustavila-28-avtobusov-z-ogorcenimi-hrvati-na-poti-v-vukovar/316777>

Summary

Serbia reshuffles government in order to cope with financial crisis

Serbian law-makers endorsed 29-year-old former McKinsey consultant Lazar Krstić as finance minister on Monday, handing him the task of reining in the country's ballooning deficit and public debt. Serbia, a candidate for membership of the European Union, emerged from recession in the first quarter of the year, but growth remains fragile (uk.reuters.com, UK, 2/3). Also on Monday, and widely reported in Greece, the Serbian parliament gave the green light for cabinet reshuffle led by Prime Minister Ivica Dačić, hoping to stop the financial crisis and to bring the country closer to the European Union (news.in.gr, 3/9). Dačić commented that Serbia's strategic goal is to accelerate the process of European integration (focus-news.net, BG, 3/9).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 2/3, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/02/uk-serbia-finmin-idUKBRE98100520130902?feedType=RSS&feedName=businessNews>
- news.in.gr, 3/9, <http://news.in.gr/world/article/?paid=1231263396>
- focus-news.net, BG, 3/9, <http://www.focus-news.net/?id=n1822398>

The East's "Germanisation"

Exploring the motives behind enlargement, in an opinion piece in El País (ES, 3/9) Ignacio Sotelo writes that two conflicting interests coincided when Eastern Europe was integrated into the EU in the 1990s. For Germany it facilitated investment in the region and enabled it to continue with the process of the "Germanisation" of Eastern Europe, but for the United Kingdom it was obvious that the eastwards enlargement would make it impossible to advance to a political union, and it decided to leave the EU stalled in the single market.

- El País, ES, 3/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130903/mi/item_167697294.pdf

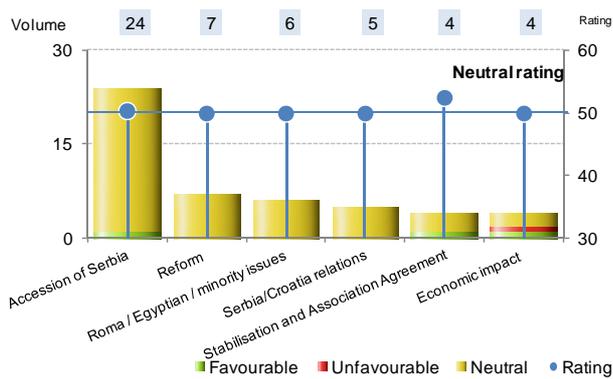
Mistakes of Enlargement

Did the European Union make a mistake when, six years ago, it admitted Romania, a country with living standards and levels of governance well below the average for the bloc? It's not just about Romania. Bulgaria joined at the same time and is still saddled with corruption and poverty. Croatia joined in July bringing problems of organised crime and the legacy of war in the 1990s, and EU candidates such as Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have even deeper troubles. In Romania's case the calculation was that pressure from Brussels, coupled with EU development cash, would help the country catch up (uk.reuters.com, UK, 2/9).

uk.reuters.com, UK, 2/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/02/romania-insolvency-town-idUKL6N0GV3NR20130902>

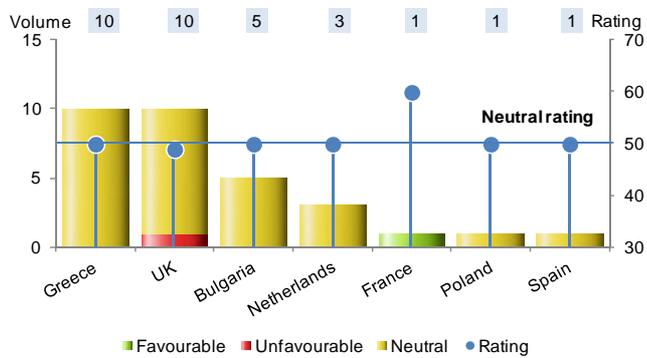
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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ELARG: Highlights
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Volume	31 items
Rating	50.0
Favourable %	3.2%
Unfavourable %	3.2%
Neutral %	93.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	14
Lazar Krstić (Finance Minister, Serbia)	11
Thierry Repentin (Minister for European Affairs, France)	6
Kristian Vigenin (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	2
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	1
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	1
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	1

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