

## Key Quotes

Prime Minister of Serbia Ivica Dačić said that EU integration remains one of key priorities of the new Serbian government. **"I am sure that further progress in the talks with Pristina will make it possible to hold the first intergovernmental conference in January, which will kick off the irreversible process of accession officially,"** Dačić stated (Dnevnik, BG, 11/9)

[http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/09/11/2138566\\_chlenstvoto\\_v\\_es\\_ostava\\_osnoven\\_prioritet\\_za\\_surbija/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/09/11/2138566_chlenstvoto_v_es_ostava_osnoven_prioritet_za_surbija/?ref=rss)

## Summary

### Dissolution of municipal councils in Kosovo

The Serbian government has today announced the dissolution of the municipal councils of the four major centres in the Serb-majority northern Kosovo, whose leadership remains hostile to the agreement between Belgrade and Pristina and opposes local elections in Kosovo. In a brief statement, Prime Minister Ivica Dačić announced that the government had dissolved the municipalities of Kosovska Mitrovica (the north side with the Serbian population), Zvečan, Zubin Potok and Leposavić. *"The government cannot overlook a refusal to apply the policy contained in the Agreement on Kosovo"*, a source close to the government who requested anonymity told ANSA. Among the points in the agreement between Belgrade and Pristina was the holding of local elections next November 3rd in Kosovo (ansamed.ansa.it, 10/9). Some 40,000 Serbs live in northern Kosovo along the border with Serbia proper, but refuse to recognise the Pristina authorities after Kosovo proclaimed independence from Serbia in 2008 (eubusiness.com, UK, 10/9). The elections are expected to produce local authorities in the mostly Serb municipalities which will then begin their integration into Kosovo's political structure (europeonline-magazine.eu, DE, 10/9).

- ansamed.ansa.it, 10/9, [http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/kosovo/2013/09/10/Kosovo-governo-Belgrado-scioqglie-4-municipalita-nord\\_9276952.html](http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/kosovo/2013/09/10/Kosovo-governo-Belgrado-scioqglie-4-municipalita-nord_9276952.html)
- eubusiness.com, UK, 10/9, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/serbia-kosovo-vote.gfx/>
- europeonline-magazine.eu, DE, 10/9, [http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/belgrade-dissolves-parallel-authorities-in-northern-kosovo\\_296556.html](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/belgrade-dissolves-parallel-authorities-in-northern-kosovo_296556.html)

### Bulgarian tension with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Bulgaria's provocation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its history and origins continues, comments former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's online news edition Press 24 [link not available]. After last week, at a sitting of a working group with the council of the EU for the West Balkans, a Bulgarian diplomat asked for a negative EC report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Over the last few days the European Commission (EC) has been hosting an exhibition, organised by the Bulgarian European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, which this time targets the history and alphabet of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (focus-fen.net, BG, 11/9).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 11/9, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n314656>

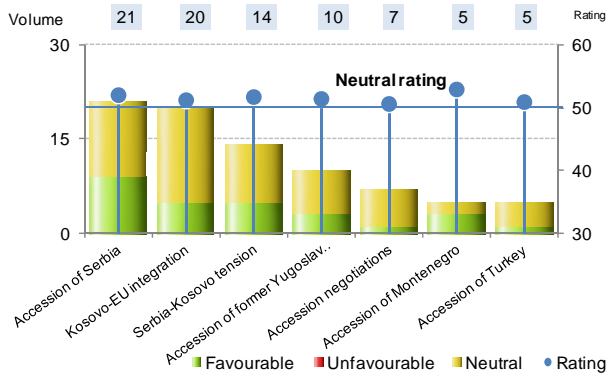
### Commission criticises selective implementation of religious freedom in Albania

In the light of recent violent incidents in Permet, the European Commission has accused Albania of selectively implementing EU legislation on human rights and religious freedom. Answering a question submitted by MEP Giorgos Koumoutsakos, Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle noted that the Albanian government must find a solution that will be acceptable to the Autonomous Orthodox Church of Albania regarding the Church of the Virgin Mary in Permet. Furthermore, Mr Füle highlighted that issues connected with human rights are taken into serious consideration during the preparation of the progress report for each country that wants to enter the EU (Eleftherotyia, EL, 11/9).

- Eleftherotyia, EL, 11/9, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130911/mi/item\\_168645218.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130911/mi/item_168645218.pdf)

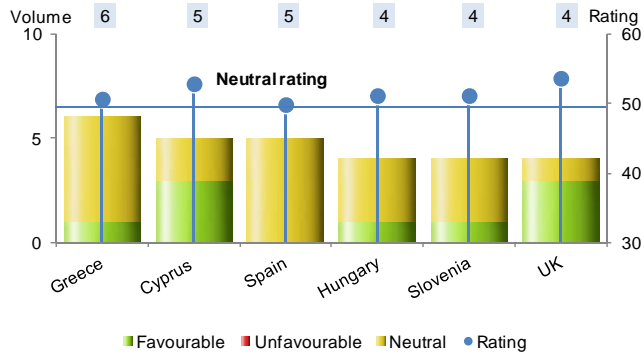
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| Neutral %      | 68.4%    |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources   | Number of mentions |
|---|--------------------|
| Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)   | 8                  |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)  | 8                  |
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)  | 5                  |
| Baroness Catherine Ashton (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)         | 5                  |
| José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (Foreign Minister, Spain)                                      | 5                  |
| Dennis Abbott (Spokesperson for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, European Commission) | 4                  |

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