

Key Quotes

The Serbian Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkić claimed **"Serbia will be the next state to join the European Union"**. Mrkić acknowledges that much remains to be done along that road. **"I firmly believe in that. My belief is mostly grounded in the friendship and support that our partners from the EU are offering to us and I know that we will not disappoint them,"** Mrkić said in an interview to the Belgrade based tabloid Kurir (Financiarul.ro, 17/9)

<http://www.financiarul.ro/2013/09/17/serbia-va-fi-urmatorul-stat-care-se-va-alatura-uniunii-europene-afirma-seful-diplomatiei-sarbe/>

Bosnia: Brussels cancels 5 million in funds, at risk another 9. **"Recently the commission monitoring projects carried out through pre-adhesion funds had to cancel two projects concerning the agricultural sector of Bosnia Herzegovina worth 5 million euros because no internal agreement was found on which structures would be charged with acting as intermediaries on agricultural aid and to promote EU rural development"**, said Peter Stano, spokesman of EU Commissioner for enlargement Štefan Füle (Ansamed, IT, 16/9)

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/bosnia/2013/09/16/Bosnia-Bruxelles-cancella-5-mln-fondi-rischio-altri-9_9306878.html

Summary

Prime Minister Edi Rama - new face of Albania

On Sunday, the Albanian parliament approved the coalition government of Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama. **"The process of adhesion to the EU is a national goal that requires a democratisation and transformation of Albanian society in compliance with European values and principles"** Rama said (capital.gr, 16/9). Brussels closely followed the polls, calling them a crucial test for the country's future in Europe (alterinfo.net, FR, 16/9). Albania has been rocked by repeated bouts of political unrest since the fall of Communism in 1991, stalling the reforms necessary for the country to catch up with its Balkan neighbours on the road to EU accession. Its bid for EU-candidate status has been rejected three times so far (uk.reuters.com, UK, 15/9). Edi Rama has pledged to kick start the economy, fight poverty, create jobs and move the country towards European Union membership. The 49-year-old told parliament **"Our goal is clear: to govern the way Albania deserves. To give Albanians a clear, tangible sight of the European Albania they dream of and deserve"** (trust.org, UK, 15/9). In order to **"show Albania's firm will"** to implement reforms required by the EU and to prove his strong commitment to EU membership, the 49-year old painter-turned-politician said he would as early as Monday pay his first official visit to Brussels (eubusiness.com, UK, 15/9).

- capital.gr, 16/9, <http://www.capital.gr/News.asp?id=1871024>
- alterinfo.net, FR, 16/9, http://www.alterinfo.net/FIN-DE-CRISE-EN-ALBANIE-LE-SOCIAL-DEMOCRATE-EDI-RAMA-INVESTI-PREMIER-MINISTRE_a94891.html
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 15/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/15/uk-albania-government-idUKBRE98E0CH20130915?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>
- trust.org, UK, 15/9, <http://www.trust.org/item/20130915165930-wqe5k/>
- eubusiness.com, UK, 15/9, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/albania-politics.qi2/>

Serbia's road to membership

The former head of the International Monetary Fund, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, has agreed to become an economic adviser to the Serbian government, officials in Belgrade say. Mr Strauss-Kahn, a French Socialist, is being prosecuted in France on charges of pimping in the city of Lille. Serbian Deputy PM Aleksandar Vučić said Mr Strauss-Kahn's expertise, not his private life, mattered to Belgrade. He said Mr Strauss-Kahn would advise him, the finance minister and the prime minister, and help Serbia reschedule its debt. He is expected to arrive in Belgrade next week. **"We have already spoken. He was not happy when he saw what awaited him, but he has already suggested a few solutions"** Mr Vučić added (bbc.co.uk, 13/9). Also in Serbia the Home Affairs Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, sent a note of support to the organisers of the 28 September Gay Pride event in Belgrade, and a letter to Serb Prime Minister Ivica Dačić. Her letter stresses that the event will be an important step in Serbia's progress towards the EU, guaranteeing the principles of equality and non-discrimination (tgcom24.mediaset.it, 14/9).

- bbc.co.uk, 13/9, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24082492>
- tgcom24.mediaset.it, 14/9, <http://www.tgcom24.mediaset.it/mondo/articoli/1117410/gay-pride-ue-test-per-la-serbia-.shtml>

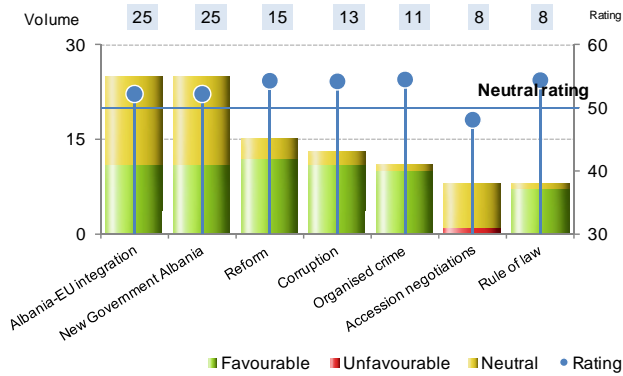
Trade war between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo ended

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has called off a ban on imports of wheat and flour from Kosovo. Pristina has reciprocated the gesture by also lifting its ban on all imports from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at midnight on September 14. Reports said trucks and passenger vehicles were seen crossing the border freely early on September 15. Officials from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said fees imposed on visitors from Kosovo and their vehicles had also been repealed (rferl.org, CZ, 15/9)

- rferl.org, CZ, 15/9, <http://www.rferl.org/content/macedonia-kosovo-defuse-trade-row/25106346.html>

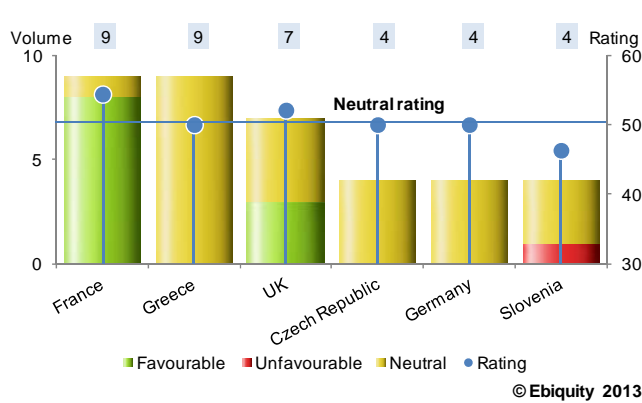
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
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ELARG: Highlights
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Volume	46 items
Rating	51.2
Favourable %	28.2%
Unfavourable %	2.2%
Neutral %	69.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	25
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson (Foreign Minister, Iceland)	5
Dr Sali Berisha (former Prime Minister, Albania)	4
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	2
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	2
Dominique Strauss-Kahn (former Head of IMF)	2

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