



Key Quotes

"Bulgaria will push for Serbia to get an accession date no later than December this year, or in January, 2014," announced Bulgarian president Rosen Plevneliev (novinite.com, BG, 19/9)

Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja said "Turkey plays a crucial role in the region and globally, and Turkey's accession would contribute to European stability and prosperity as a whole. We see the talks as a win-win process. The perspective of EU membership is a powerful stimulus for positive reform and transformation process in Turkey and can inspire also other countries in the neighbourhood. At the same time, Turkey can play a constructive role in foreign policy and we see a lot of potential for developing cooperation and coordination between the Union and Turkey in this field" (hri.org, CY, 18/9)

Summary

Albania a possible candidate for membership by the end of 2013

Albania is ready "in principle" to achieve candidate status for joining the EU, according to the European Commission president, José Manuel Barroso, speaking in Brussels on 17 September, alongside the new Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama. He said that should October's progress report on the country prove positive, there was no reason why Albania should not begin the formal path to European Union membership. "Albania's future is with the European Union" said Barroso, adding that the election of Rama's Alliance for European Albania, was "a clear and strong mandate" for pursuing EU membership. He said he had confidence in its capacity to fulfil criteria needed to be granted candidate status. Key amongst these are reform of the judicial system, respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption and organised crime (balkans.com, CY, 18/9). The Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said "I want to see Albania in the European Union as a full member in 10 years" (mykosmos.gr, EL, 18/9).

- balkans.com, CY, 18/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=182033>
- mykosmos.gr, EL, 18/9, http://www.mykosmos.gr/loc_mk/news/greece/2231306/mparozo-kai-rompai-sthrizoun-thn-kubernhsh-rama.htm

Ex-IMF chief Strauss-Kahn takes on Serbia advisory role

Ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn began work on Tuesday as economic adviser to the Serbian government. Strauss-Kahn, who has been initially engaged for three months and will take no salary, told a news conference that he and his team had "no magic wand or silver bullet" for the shaky economy of the European Union candidate. Meanwhile, Vučić's Progressive Party is riding high in opinion polls, and speculation is rife that he may seek a fresh mandate in a snap election that could follow the expected start of EU accession talks in January. At his news conference, Strauss-Kahn refused to discuss specifics of the Serbian economy. Asked if he would advise Belgrade to seek a new loan deal with the IMF, which scrapped a 1 billion euro arrangement in early 2012 over broken spending promises, he replied: "Maybe, maybe not" (uk.reuters.com, UK, 17/9).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 17/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/17/uk-serbia-strausskahn-idUKBRE98GOL120130917?feedType=RSS&feedName=businessNews>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia charges 20 with spying for a neighbouring state

The former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia charged 20 people on Tuesday, including serving and former intelligence officers, with selling state secrets to a neighbouring country and using classified information to blackmail businessmen. Police said the crimes went back eight years and that they had been tracking the case, the biggest of its kind since the country broke away from federal Yugoslavia in 1991, for the last two years. "We have information that the group collaborated with several foreign services, but mainly their cooperation was with one neighbouring state", Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska told a news conference, without identifying the country involved (uk.reuters.com, UK, 17/9).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 17/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/17/macedonia-espionage-idUKL5N0HD2L520130917>

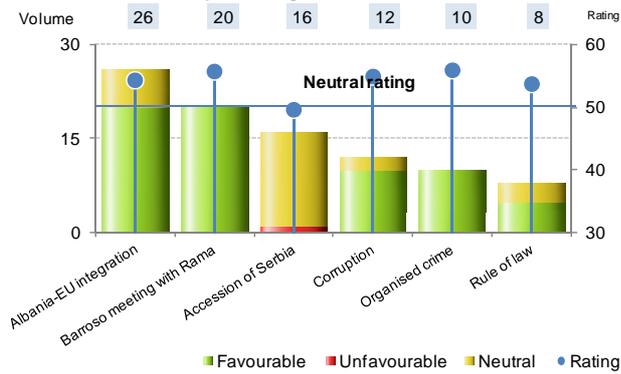
Cyprus-Turkey tension

Returning the fenced off part of Famagusta would be a wonderful thing, said British High Commissioner Matthew Kidd. He said the two sides appeared to be preparing "seriously" for the resumption of talks next month. The government has proposed the return of Varosha in the occupied part of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants under UN control, in exchange for opening Famagusta port to international trade and unfreezing a number of chapters in Turkey's EU accession negotiations (cyprus-mail.com, CY, 18/9).

- cyprus-mail.com, CY, 18/9, <http://cyprus-mail.com/2013/09/18/varosha-return-would-boost-upcoming-talks/>

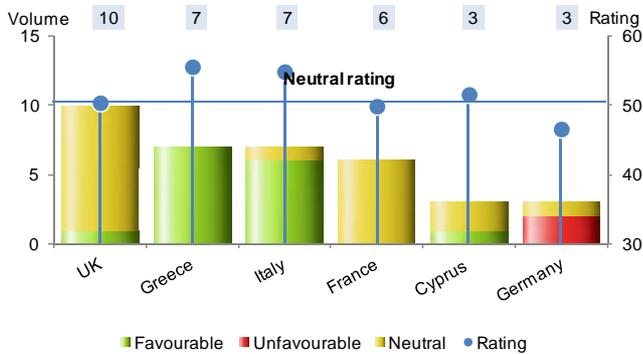
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



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ELARG: Highlights
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Volume	44 items
Rating	52.8
Favourable %	50%
Unfavourable %	4.5%
Neutral %	45.5%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	22
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	20
Dominique Strauss-Kahn (former Head of IMF)	10
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	4
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Fatmir Limaj (Politician, Kosovo)	4

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