

## Key Quotes

Britain's membership of the EU leaves the nation £170 billion a year worse off, a new study shows today. Professor Tim Congdon estimates that **direct expenses like payments to the EU budget cost the average British household some £750 a year, rising towards £1,000 if Turkey and new Balkan countries join the EU and need support** (Express.co.uk, 19/9).

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/430571/REVEALED-How-Britain-is-170bn-worse-off-in-European-Union>

## Summary

### Serbian team meet Štefan Füle

Serbia's Minister responsible for EU integration, Branko Ružić, announced that the European Commission supports Serbia's efforts towards EU integration and there are no new requirements. Together with Head of Serbia's team for the accession talks, Tanja Mišćević, he met EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle in Brussels. The framework for the talks has been clearly defined, on the political, technical and expert levels, he stressed. Mišćević said after the meeting it had been an opportunity for her and Ružić to present Füle with their plan, adding that they discussed the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (balkans.com, CY, 18/9). The former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer will assist Serbia in its relations with the EU. "My goal" Gusenbauer said "is to support the Serbian government in negotiations with the EU. I will also learn about the atmosphere in Brussels and help improve the negative image of Serbia. This image is linked to Kosovo, the legacy of the Yugoslav wars and corruption" (Monde, FR, 19/9).

- balkans.com, CY, 18/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=182129>
- Monde, FR, 19/9, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130919/mi/item\\_169522032.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130919/mi/item_169522032.pdf)

### Bulgarian support for Serbia

Bulgaria's President Rosen Plevneliev has received assurances of support from his Serbian counterpart, Tomislav Nikolić, in his efforts to improve the life of the Bulgarian minority in Serbia. "Serbia will pay special attention to municipalities with a Bulgarian population" said Nikolić. Plevneliev pointed out that Bulgaria is "a big friend of Serbia" and that Bulgaria pledges its full support in Serbia's efforts to become a member state. He added that "we are ready to share our experience, gained throughout the process of EU integration that we went through ourselves" (novinite.com, BG, 19/9). Bulgaria and Serbia are to hold joint meetings to work together on the Sofia-Kalotina- Niš motorway which is part of European Transport Corridor 10. The two presidents also discussed the possibilities of opening new border checkpoints and building a gas interconnector between Bulgaria and Serbia (sofiaglobe.com, BG, 19/9).

- novinite.com, BG, 19/9, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/153763/Serbia%27s+President+Vows+Special+Attention+to+Bulgarian+Minority>
- sofiaglobe.com, BG, 19/9, <http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/09/19/bulgaria-and-serbia-prepare-friendship-treaty-boost-to-economic-ties/>

### Tension in Mitrovica

A European Union police officer has been shot dead while on patrol in Mitrovica in northern Kosovo. The EU mission, Eulex, condemned the "act of cowardly violence" and said a murder investigation had been launched. It said two vehicles came under fire from unknown persons (bbc.co.uk, 19/9).

- bbc.co.uk, 19/9, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24158153>

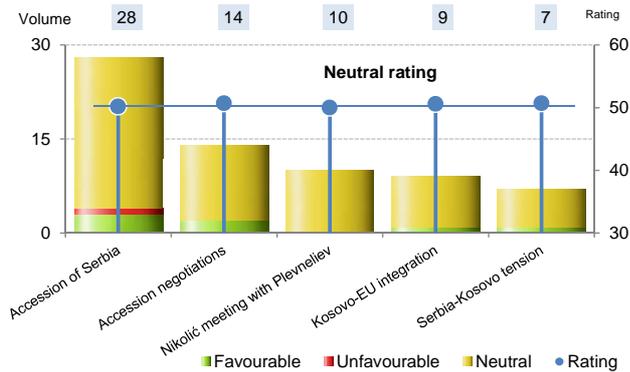
### Greek school opens on Turkish island

Four children began classes this week at a Greek school on a remote Turkish island, becoming the first students to enrol here in almost 50 years and giving their tiny community hope of enduring in its ancient homeland. Closed in 1964 at a time of high tensions with Greece over Cyprus, Agios Theodoros Primary School is a part of Turkey's efforts to address a troubled past and expand rights for some minorities. The step is welcomed not only by the Greek community of the Aegean island but also by the European Parliament, which said the re-opening of the school was a sign of Turkey's commitment to European values. Erdoğan's reform package may include reopening a Greek Orthodox seminary in Istanbul, shut in 1971, in what the EU has called a violation of religious freedom and a hurdle in Turkey's stalled bid to join the bloc (uk.news.yahoo.com, 18/9).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, 18/9, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-revives-greeks-hopes-opening-primary-school-175010991.html#0dp7spo>

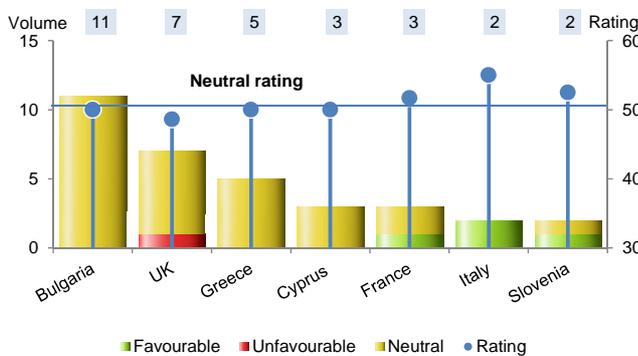
## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
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**ELARG: Highlights**  
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Volume	36 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	13.9%
Unfavourable %	2.8%
Neutral %	83.3%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	12
Rosen Plevneliev (President, Bulgaria)	10
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	6
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	3
Tanja Mišćević (Chief EU Negotiator, Serbia)	3
Branko Ružić (Minister for European Integration, Serbia)	3
Yiannis Boutari (Mayor of Thessaloniki, Greece)	3
Jelko Kacin (MEP)	3

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