

Key Quotes

Peter Osborne, the Daily Telegraph's chief political commentator, writes that *"When Baroness Ashton was appointed European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs four years ago I thought it was a most discouraging appointment. She appeared to the worst kind of Labour Party quangocrat, and filled me with mild horror"*. He continues *"Well, let's admit we were all completely wrong. It is now obvious that Catherine Ashton has been a success. In her unobtrusive but determined way, she can boast real achievement. Last year a peace deal was struck between Serbia and Kosovo. Nobody had thought it possible. It was a massive step towards healing ancient hatreds and building economic prosperity. It was brokered by Baroness Ashton"* (Telegraph.co.uk, UK, 27/9)

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/peterosborne/100238311/we-were-all-wrong-about-baroness-ashton-she-may-save-the-iran-nuclear-talks/>

Serbia's government banned Gay Pride. Štefan Füle said *"As Commissioner for the EU Enlargement policy, I am committed to seek from candidate countries that they fully embrace values such as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression that are amongst the core foundations on which the European Union project is built upon"* (courrier-picard, FR, 28/9)

<http://www.courrier-picard.fr/france-monde/belgrade-l-ue-regrette-l-interdiction-de-la-gay-pride-des-ia0b0n196990?xtor=RSS-2>

Summary

Welfare and Employment reform in Serbia

The EU commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion, Laszlo Andor, has visited Serbia. On the first day of his visit, Andor met with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Jovan Krkobabić and the minister without portfolio in charge of European integration, Branko Ružić, and participated in the presentation and launch of the government's program for employment and welfare reform. Speaking at a news conference, Andor said Serbia was the first country in the region where such a program had been initiated, aiming to reduce poverty and unemployment. He said that Serbia must do more toward specializing its workforce for sustainable development and that it was important to step up the social dialogue, which is insufficiently developed (boon.hu, 26/9).

· boon.hu, 26/9, <http://www.boon.hu/szerbia-eu-konform-reformokat-inditanak-a-foqlalkoztat-as-a-szocialis-ugyek-teruleten/2371242>

Germany wants to introduce more stringent conditions in negotiations between Serbia and the EU

Opening the *"Serbia and Germany – asymmetric reality"* event, Serbia's Prime Minister Dačić said that Serbia's European path depends on Germany and that Serbia is ready to accept conditions that do not go against its statehood and national interests. He underlined that it is in Serbia's interest to set up a common ground with German policy as soon as possible (balkans.com, CY, 27/9). Earlier this year the German Bundestag adopted a resolution insisting that Belgrade and Pristina should sign a legally binding document in order to normalize their relations *"totally, fully and permanently"*. Otherwise, Serbia could not count on German support for the start of accession negotiations. Despite the fact that the representatives of some other EU member states say that Germany cannot impose its own conditions on Serbia, Belgrade considers that the voice of Berlin is extremely important for its pro-European efforts (balkaneu.com, EL, 27/9).

· balkans.com, CY, 27/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=182555>

· balkaneu.com, EL, 27/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/berlin-impose-harsh-conditions-serbian-eu-path/>

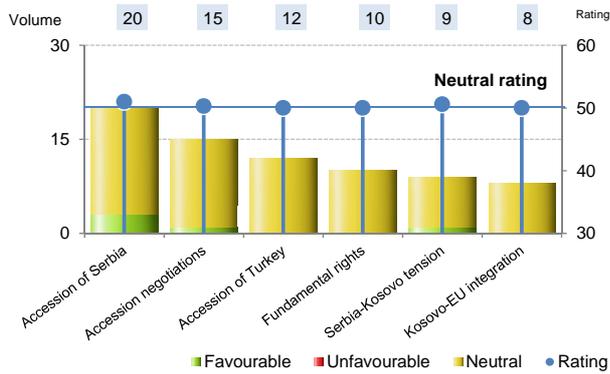
The future for Turkey

For years, the overarching question about Turkey was whether the country would become more at home in the Middle East or instead continue its decades-long journey towards European standards. When Angela Merkel criticised Turkey's crackdown on protesters in June, Egemen Bağış, Turkey's Europe minister, suggested the German chancellor's chances of political survival could not be taken for granted. His concerns appear to have been misplaced, given Ms Merkel's resounding re-election this week. Meanwhile, Mr Bağış recently predicted that European *"prejudice"* would prevent Turkey from joining the EU, although he insisted the country would attain European standards all the same (ft.com, UK, 27/9).

· ft.com, UK, 27/9, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/74d0bdb6-2695-11e3-9dc0-00144feab7de.html#axzz2q40XRcpR>

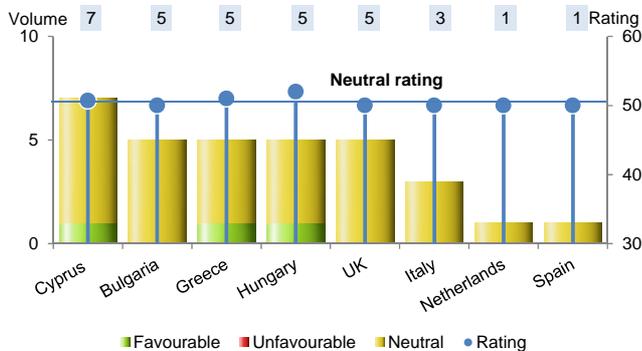
Charts

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ELARG: Highlights
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Volume	32 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	9.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	90.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	6
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	5
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	4
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	4

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