

Key Quotes

Tony Blair joins Albania's campaign to join European Union. Mr. Blair said: **"The orientation toward Europe is immensely important, and personally I'd love to see this country join the family of European nations"**. Speaking at the same press conference as Mr Blair, Albanian leader Edi Rama said: **"I harbour no illusions. European integration is easy to speak of but very hard to attain"** (BBC Online, UK, 3/10). <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24387295>

Turkey's EU Minister Egemen Bağış rejected the notion of opening Varosha in exchange for the opening of accession negotiation chapters. **"Which country in negotiations gives up territory in exchange for opening a chapter? Use your brain. Turkey will not give up territory even to be a candidate, never mind open a chapter"** (Cyprus-Mail, CY, 4/10). <http://cyprus-mail.com/2013/10/04/downer-sees-determination-from-both-communities-plus-greece-and-turkey/>

Summary

Kosovo elections

Kosovo has rejected a request by Serbia's Prime Minister to visit a Serb-majority town in its breakaway territory, saying it would *"interfere"* with local polls next month, Kosovo's deputy prime minister Hajredin Kuçi told AFP. He said *"We do not want officials from Belgrade to interfere with Kosovo's elections"*. Because Kosovo and Serbia have not had diplomatic relations since the majority-Albanian government in Pristina declared independence in 2008, Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić had to request approval for the visit through the EU diplomatic missions in both capitals. Dačić wanted to visit the southern town of Štrpce the day after local election campaign begins on Friday (focus-fen.net, BG, 2/10). Maja Kocijancic, spokesperson for Catherine Ashton, EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said *"We are monitoring the situation and we are in contact with both parties"* (hvg.hu, 2/10).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 2/10, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n316003>
- hvg.hu, 2/10, http://hvg.hu/vilag/20131002_Szerbia_megszakithatja_a_targyalasokat_Ko#rss

Meeting between Serbian and Slovenian Prime Ministers

Slovenian Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek and her Serbian counterpart Ivica Dačić praised their bilateral relations, but put in a word for the improvement of economic cooperation after the governments of both countries met for their first ever joint session in Belgrade on Wednesday. The Prime Minister also expressed Slovenia's continuing support for Serbia and other countries in the region, in their efforts to join the EU, which she said would contribute to the stability of whole Europe. Dačić thanked her for the support and expressed the expectation that Serbia would launch accession negotiations with the EU by the end of January (sloveniatimes.com, SI, 2/10).

- sloveniatimes.com, SI, 2/10, <http://www.sloveniatimes.com/economic-coop-dominates-joint-govt-session-in-belgrade>

Romanian MEPs denounced Serbia's discriminatory policy towards the Romanians from Timoc

Yesterday, the leader of the Romanian National Liberal delegation in the European Parliament, Norica Nicolai, presented a report which denounced the denationalisation of the Romanian minority from Timoc Valley. She stated that she will try to ensure that the opening of the "Culture" negotiation chapter from Serbia's EU Accession Treaty should be dependent on Belgrade fulfilling its commitments regarding the rights of the Romanian minority. In parallel, the International Forum of Romanian Journalists presented a report in Brussels yesterday which referred to the freedom of the press in the Romanian diaspora, which indicates a total lack of print publications in Romanian (Curentul, RO, 3/10).

- Curentul, RO, 3/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131003/mi/item_171252338.pdf

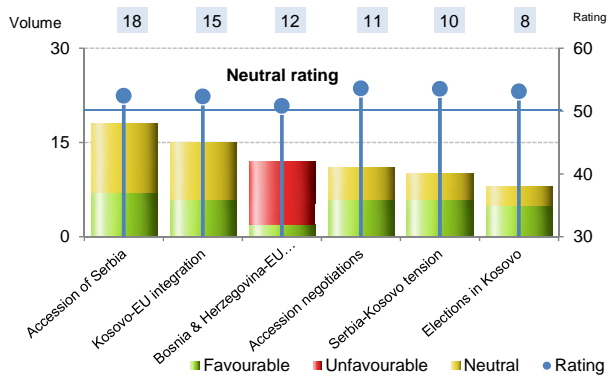
BiH settlement still distant

Hopes that Bosnia's fractious leaders were near a deal to end a stand-off blocking the country's bid to join the European Union receded on Wednesday, when one top official said they were only *"halfway there"*. Seven leaders from the main Serb, Croat and Bosniak (Muslim) parties issued a joint statement in Brussels on Tuesday saying they had agreed to *"urgently"* settle their differences over Bosnia's constitution, set down under a peace deal to end the country's 1992-95 war. For a moment the statement raised expectations of an imminent breakthrough. It offered little in terms of solutions, however, and set a new deadline of October 10, before a European Commission progress report due six days later. *"We put the meeting on hold"* said Peter Sorensen, the EU's envoy to Bosnia, on his return from Brussels (uk.news.yahoo.com, 2/10).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, 2/10, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/hopes-deal-unblock-bosnias-eu-bid-hang-balance-152420819.html#OdfwFNo>

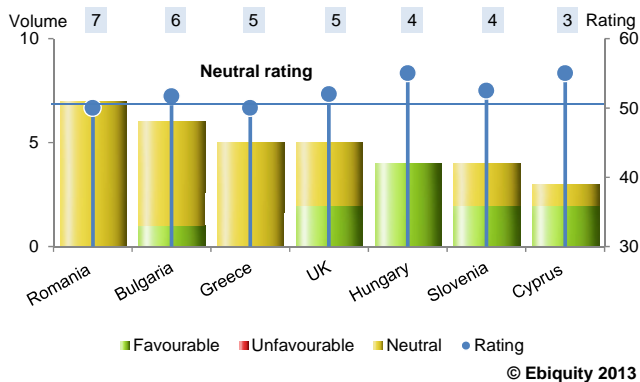
Charts

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Volume	37 items
Rating	51.8
Favourable %	29.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	70.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	11
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Hajredin Kuçi (Justice Minister, Kosovo)	6
Egemen Bagis (Turkish Minister for EU Affairs)	5
Maja Kocijancic (Spokesperson to HRVP Catherine Ashton, EC)	5
Jean-Marc Ayrault (Prime Minister, France)	5

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