

## Key Quotes

Serbia and Kosovo have reached a deal to allow politicians from Belgrade to campaign during a Kosovo municipal election on November 3, smoothing over a row that had underscored the fragility of relations between the two. After a late-night meeting in Brussels on Monday, Ivica Dačić said the issue was resolved. **"My credibility was called into question because I couldn't go to Kosovo. That was not sustainable, it was clear to everyone"** he told reporters in Brussels (Yahoo!, UK, 8/10).

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-settle-row-over-election-campaign-235240400.html#8dJGNbi>

## Summary

### Ivica Dačić lashes out at European Union

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić had planned to visit minority Kosovo Serbs on Friday to encourage them to take part in the vote, but the government in Pristina said he would be refused access for the duration of the election campaign. *"We in government, in the interest of the state, we risked our lives and careers and now someone wants to humiliate us with such a decision"*, Dačić told a news conference, saying the ban represented a violation of the April accord *"If the European Union finds that normal, then I no longer have any interest in taking part"* he said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 4/10). The leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Serbia Vojislav Koštunica said that Serbia must abandon plans to join the European Union and declare political neutrality. Koštunica said that today *"more than ever"* it is clear that the refusal of European integration is essential for the survival of Serbia (dnevnik.bg, BG, 7/10).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 4/10, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/04/uk-serbia-kosovo-eu-idUKBRE9930M320131004?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>
- dnevnik.bg, 7/10, [http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/10/07/2155647\\_surbiiia\\_triabva\\_da\\_se\\_otkaje\\_ot\\_evrointegracijata/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/10/07/2155647_surbiiia_triabva_da_se_otkaje_ot_evrointegracijata/?ref=rss)

### Brussels sees progress on Kosovo dispute

EU governments are making progress on healing their split over recognition of Kosovo's independence, a step that would remove a big diplomatic obstacle to integrating the former Serbian province more closely with the EU. Cyprus, Greece and Slovakia - three of the five EU states that refused to recognise Kosovo when it declared independence from Serbia in 2008 - sent clear signals that they were reconsidering their positions when each of their foreign ministers held a meeting last month with Enver Hoxhaj, their Kosovar counterpart. For five years, the disagreement over Kosovo has been one of the most glaring examples of how difficult the EU finds it to operate a common foreign policy. The April accord opened the door for Serbia to begin formal negotiations on joining the EU and for Kosovo to secure an association agreement and it also offered space for most of the five non-recognisers to extend diplomatic feelers towards the young state, whose population is mainly ethnic Albanian but contains a significant ethnic Serb minority. Greece and Slovakia have started this process by agreeing to accept passports issued by Kosovo. Of the five hold-outs, Spain is most resistant, because the conservative government in Madrid is extremely sensitive to a recent surge in separatist sentiment in Catalonia (Financial-Times, UK, 7/10).

- Financial-Times, UK, 7/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131007/mi/item\\_171694455.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131007/mi/item_171694455.pdf)

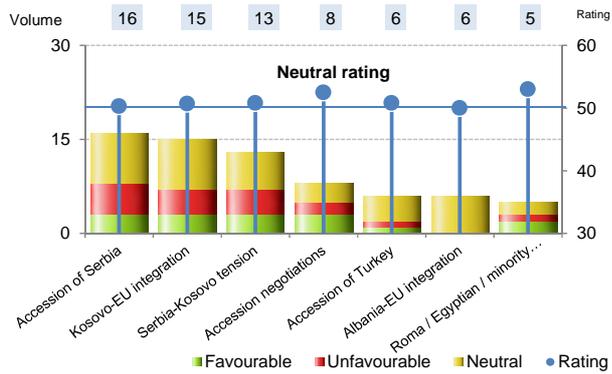
### Turks no longer see the EU as the only opening

Turkey is considering other alternatives as well as new relationships and playing an important part in international organizations, as demonstrated by its economic relations with African countries that have become increasingly important, with exports increasing from 2% in 2002 to 34% in 2012. The reverse of the coin is that exports towards Europe have lessened by 30% in the last ten years (collectifvan.org, FR, 7/10). 64.1% of Turks believe Germany is the country obstructing Turkey's accession course, while 26.2% think France is the main stumbling block to joining the Union. Only 5% believe the Cyprus issue and the Republic of Cyprus are to blame for Turkey not joining the EU. Fifteen years ago, in similar polls, Greece was the main reason behind Turkey not being able to join the Union (balkaneu.com, CY, 7/10).

- collectifvan.org, FR, 7/10, <http://www.collectifvan.org/article.php?r=4&id=76006>
- balkaneu.com, CY, 7/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/turks-dont-eu-accession/>

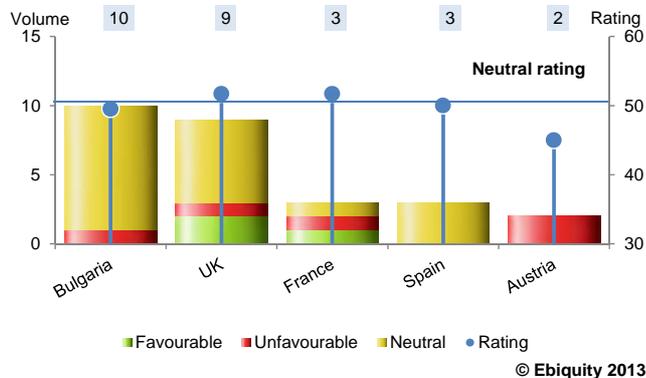
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**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
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<b>Volume</b>	44 items
<b>Rating</b>	50.0
<b>Favourable %</b>	9.3%
<b>Unfavourable %</b>	18.8%
<b>Neutral %</b>	71.9%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	9
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	9
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	5
Tony Blair (former Prime Minister, UK)	4
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	3
Vlora Çitaku (Minister for EU Integration, Kosovo)	2
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	2
Samuel Žbogar (Head of the EU Office in Kosovo)	2

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