

Key Quotes

The European Union is to halve funding to Bosnia after its leaders failed to reach a deal to amend the constitution, dealing another setback to the country's hopes of EU membership. EU enlargement chief Štefan Füle said "**the commitments made by the Bosnian sides, still divided along ethnic lines some 20 years after the wars that split Yugoslavia, had not been met. The lack of a solution blocked Bosnia's path to EU membership and made it difficult to justify the EU giving funds to help it prepare**", in a statement on Thursday (Reuters, UK, 10/10).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/uk-bosnia-eu-idUKBRE9990Q620131010>

The annual report of the European Commission on Serbia's progress praises the reforms of the country and calls on the European Parliament to open talks for EU membership, Serbian Politika daily reported. "**This year there is no unknown quantities**", anonymous source from the EC said (Focus-fen, BG, 11/10).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n316582>

Summary

Working to bring Albania into Europe

In Tirana, on Wednesday, in a joint press conference with her Albanian counterpart, Ditmir Bushati, Italian foreign minister Emma Bonino said that Italy had worked for the EU Commission report to be positive and for the European Council meeting in December to name Albania an EU membership candidate. Noting that Italy is a firm supporter of Albania's candidature for EU membership, Bonino addressed Albania in saying that "*you have to do your part too. The EU is not only an opportunity but also discipline. This holds true for everyone*". The minister went on to say that she hoped the 2014 EU presidency, which Greece will hold for the first six months and Italy the second, would result in progress for Albania in its path to becoming an EU member (ansa.it, IT, 9/10). "*We have worked hard to make the report a positive one and ensure the December European Council will grant us candidate status*", Albanian Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati said, adding, that he counts on next year's Italian EU presidency to make 2014 a decisive year. The Rama administration is committed "to reform, especially those regarding the rule of law", Bushati added. Such reforms are not only key for the economic and democratic transformation of Albania, but in order to create a more favourable climate for foreign investments (ansamed.info, IT, 9/10).

- ansa.it, IT, 9/10, http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/nations/italy/2013/10/09/Italy-working-Albania-EU-membership-candidature-Bonino_9432090.html
- ansamed.info, IT, 9/10, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/10/09/Albania-You-can-do-Bonino-says-Albania-EU-adhesion_9436276.html

Greeks would prefer integration into Turkey, rather than the EU!

Most Greeks would choose to leave the European Union and join Turkey if they had a chance, a close aide of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said. "*If there were a referendum in Greece today, 51 percent of Greeks would vote to exit the EU and join Turkey*" Yiğit Bulut said in a televised interview Wednesday, according to a report in Today's Zaman, an English-language newspaper published in Turkey. Erdoğan's appointment of Bulut, a columnist and TV commentator, as his chief economic adviser earlier this year, stirred controversy in Turkey. Bulut, a former critic of Erdoğan, recently claimed that the premier's enemies are seeking to kill him by telekinesis. Turkey's EU membership bid has been virtually frozen for three years, held back by political obstacles and resistance in some European countries, including Germany, France and Austria (ekathimerini.com, EL, 10/10).

- ekathimerini.com, EL, 10/10, http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/_w_articles_ws1e1_1_10/10/2013_522428

Serbian economic reforms

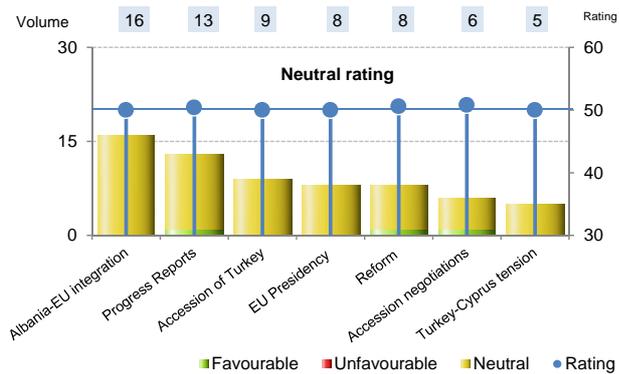
The Serbian government brought in a package of difficult, but necessary austerity measures and reforms to attract foreign investment and launch privatisations. Serbia's Finance Minister, Lazar Krstic, in giving details of these measures, said that Serbia will go bankrupt if it does not take the necessary measures to avoid this scenario. The country is also negotiating bilateral loans with the IMF to repair its economy. The government's adjustment package revolves around four main provisions: increasing the VAT rate on non-essential products, cutting salaries of state employees, suspending subsidies to publicly owned companies, and stepping up the fight against tax evasion (ilsole24ore.com, IT, 9/10). After meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Foreign Affairs Minister János Martonyi, Serbia's Foreign Affairs Minister Ivan Mrkić expressed his gratitude to Orbán and his government's support for Serbian EU membership aspirations (bbj.hu, HU, 9/10).

- ilsole24ore.com, IT, 9/10, <http://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/notizie/2013-10-09/serbia-ricetta-29enne-ministro-093633.shtml?uuid=AblgN9qI>
- bbj.hu, HU, 9/10, http://www.bbj.hu/politics/serbia-thanks-hungary-on-eu-ascension-support_70368

Links in [italic](#), [blue](#) & [underline](#)

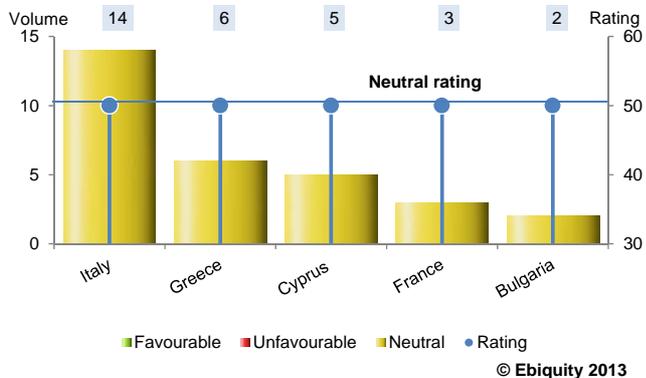
Charts

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Emma Bonino (Foreign Minister, Italy)	14
Ditmir Bushati (Foreign Minister, Albania)	13
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	2
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	2
Dervis Eroğlu (Turkish Cypriot leader)	2

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