

## Key Quotes

Experts back Turkey's EU membership. **"From an economic point of view, Turkey needs the EU,"** Mustafa Sönmez told DW. **"Where foreign investments are concerned, it is important to be a member of the EU or an accession candidate,"** the economist and business journalist says. Senem Aydin, political scientist, adds that **"The EU is the engine for the democratization process in the country. It has become clear, in particular over the past five years, that Turkish democracy would have suffered without the EU's influence"** ([dw.de](http://www.dw.de/ankara-will-nicht-mehr-auf-br%C3%BCssel-warten/a-17156840), DE, 14/10)  
<http://www.dw.de/ankara-will-nicht-mehr-auf-br%C3%BCssel-warten/a-17156840>

Kosovo local elections remain a known unknown. According to the Central European Policy Institute (CEPI), the elections will provide a litmus test for the EU-brokered deal, dubbed the **"Brussels Agreement"** - whether it can be **"a harbinger of a new era in the relationship between Belgrade and Pristina, as well as for their European transformation"** ([bne.eu](http://www.bne.eu/storyf5428/Kosovo_local_elections_remain_a_known_unknown), DE, 15/10)  
[http://www.bne.eu/storyf5428/Kosovo\\_local\\_elections\\_remain\\_a\\_known\\_unknown](http://www.bne.eu/storyf5428/Kosovo_local_elections_remain_a_known_unknown)

## Summary

### Evangelos Venizelos visits Albania

The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evangelos Venizelos travelled to Tirana in an effort to strengthen relations between Greece and Albania. The focus of the meeting between Mr Venizelos with the Albanian PM, Edi Rama and the Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ditmir Bushati was the speeding up of the processes for the construction of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline and the implementation of the agreement for the EEZ, which Greece and Albania signed in 2009. Mr Venizelos assured the leadership of Albania of the strong support of Greece regarding the country's prospect for EU accession (Naftemporiki, 14/10). It is expected that the European Commission will give an unconditional recommendation for Albania's EU candidate-status in its annual progress report (dnevnik.bg, BG, 14/10).

- Naftemporiki, 14/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131014/mi/item\\_172528729.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131014/mi/item_172528729.pdf)
- dnevnik.bg, BG, 14/10, [http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/10/14/2160104\\_ochakva\\_se\\_prez\\_dekembri\\_albaniia\\_da\\_poluchi\\_statut\\_na/](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/10/14/2160104_ochakva_se_prez_dekembri_albaniia_da_poluchi_statut_na/)

### Serbia wanting to prove changes

Serbia is on the cusp of turning around its ailing economy but the government is still struggling to convince the public and US and European political officials that it has put corruption, extortion and the Yugoslav war firmly behind it. The struggle for European Union membership has also been touted to give the country a 'seal of approval' for certain standards. However in June 2013, despite receiving a green light to start negotiations on joining the EU, shaking off the problems of the past looks still to hinder country's economic progression. Dačić negotiated the deal with his Kosovo counterpart, Hashim Thaçi, in months of delicate talks in Brussels, but the recent ban from him being able to visit has created a stumbling block over EU membership. Furthermore, only 10 days after Serbia conducted EU accession talks, a document by Germany and the United Kingdom outlined concerns over its potential membership. **"We feel we are running a marathon, which is difficult enough, but to then we run towards a goal and we are just about there, something like this non-paper or more demands are placed on us"** said Dačić adding **"Germany told us that the paper was not an official stance, but it just shows how much we have to bear and how much extra we have to do despite following all the set goals placed in front of us"** (ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 11/10).

- ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 11/10, <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/513234/20131011/serbia-eu-membership-ivica-dacic-aleksander-vucic.htm>

### EC intervention for Cyprus solution

The European Commission is preparing to intervene in the Cyprus problem through a political message that will be included in Turkey's EU accession Progress Report, scheduled for release on 16 October. Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle's team is reportedly preparing a paragraph to be included in the report, which reiterates the positive impact for all sides from a solution to the Cyprus problem as well as the European Commission's continued commitment and support for the Cyprus talks and efforts for a solution (ANT-1-TV-Cyprus, CY, 12/10).

- ANT-1-TV-Cyprus, CY, 12/10, [link not available]

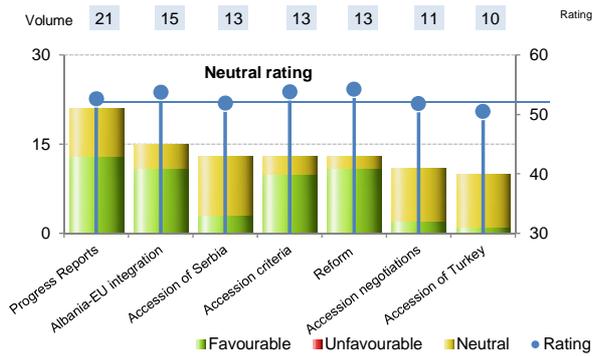
### Name dispute

Brussels is planning to impose a decision on the dispute with Greece as a condition for the accession of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will become a full member of the European Union if the country solves the name dispute with Greece. According to reports, this means that any accession negotiations will not begin before the final settlement of disagreements with Athens (Presa-Daily, BG, 14/10).

- Presa-Daily, BG, 14/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131014/mi/item\\_172515288.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131014/mi/item_172515288.pdf)

## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



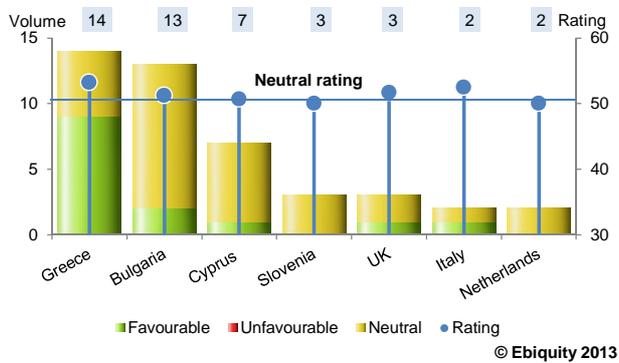
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<b>Volume</b>	46 items
<b>Rating</b>	52.0
<b>Favourable %</b>	32.6%
<b>Unfavourable %</b>	0%
<b>Neutral %</b>	67.4%

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

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**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	3
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	3
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	2

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