



## Key Quotes

Turkey's relationship with the European Union has been "**poisoned**", its ambassador to Brussels has said, on the eve of a major report which is widely expected to offer little prospect of it joining the 28-member bloc. In unusually frank comments for a diplomat, Selim Yenel said the relationship was beset by "**a lot of mistrust, frustration, disillusionment and disappointment**". Mr Yenel stated that Turkey was "**fine**" if accession never happened, adding: "**It is no big deal. We are not like the other countries. We have options. We can survive alone**" ([telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk), 15/10).

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/10380513/Turkeys-relationship-with-EU-poisoned.html>

EU to fault Turkey over protests but urge new talks. *Yahoo!* notes that the Commission's report will criticise excessive use of force by police and a lack of dialogue with protesters, but it will also note reforms made by the Turkish government, including a "**democratisation package**" announced by Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan last month, an EU source said. The report should not create any obstacle to opening a new round of membership talks with Turkey, the source said. "**On the contrary, we make it very clear that we expect the member states to deliver on what they have agreed and promised**," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity (*Yahoo!*, UK, 15/10).

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/eu-fault-turkey-over-protests-urge-talks-155441602.html#aNHmX3R>

## Summary

### Serbia / Kosovo tension

While Serbia is full of talk about possible early parliamentary elections next year, the municipal elections in Kosovo on November 3 present a more immediate problem for Belgrade. As part of the historic deal signed in April between Serbia and Kosovo to normalise relations that have been frozen since the erstwhile province declared independence in 2008, the four Serb-dominated northernmost municipalities are to be incorporated into Kosovo's legal system and so are required to take part in the local elections. As a reward for giving up its hold over the pocket of about 40,000 Serbs in the north of Kosovo, Belgrade will get to open talks with the EU about joining the bloc in the coming months. 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*". 66% of Serbs are in favour of their country joining the European Union, compared with 29% against (*italiaoggi.it*, IT, 14/10).

- *italiaoggi.it*, IT, 14/10, [http://www.italiaoggi.it/news/dettaglio\\_news.asp?id=201310141233182492&chkAgenzie=TMFI](http://www.italiaoggi.it/news/dettaglio_news.asp?id=201310141233182492&chkAgenzie=TMFI)

### Albania cooperation with Greece

Albania wants to strengthen cooperation with Greece and other nations in the Balkan region, its newly-appointed Prime Minister Edi Rama said on Monday. Rama, who was speaking after a meeting with visiting Greek Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos in Tirana, thanked Greece's backing for Albania's EU membership ambitions and expressed hope that his administration will receive further support during Greece's upcoming presidency of the bloc (*ekathimerini.com*, EL, 14/10). During this meeting, both interlocutors emphasised the bilateral relations that exist between the two countries. Rama stressed that the Albanian government remains determined to strengthen regional collaboration. Premier Rama said that the agreement reached between Kosovo and Serbia opens a new chapter in the relations between countries of the region (*balkaneu.com*, CY, 14/10). However *Naftemporiki* (EL, 15/10) comments that although both sides gave many compliments to each other, the climate was not nearly as good during Mr Venizelos' meeting with the Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ditmir Bushati.

- *ekathimerini.com*, EL, 14/10, [http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/\\_w\\_articles\\_wsite1\\_1\\_14/10/2013\\_523073](http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_wsite1_1_14/10/2013_523073)
- *balkaneu.com*, CY, 14/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/premier-rama-receives-greek-foreign-minister-venizellos-albania-greece-reached-phase-collaboration/>
- *Naftemporiki*, EL, 15/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131015/mi/item\\_172648177.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131015/mi/item_172648177.pdf)

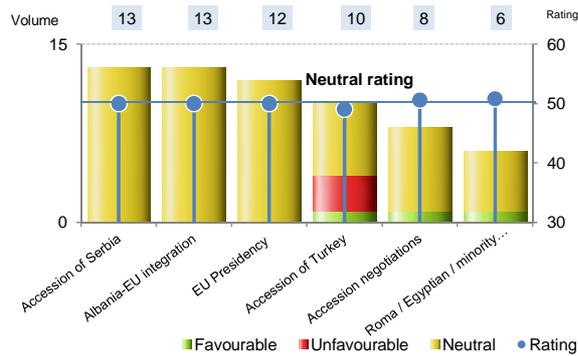
### EU involvement in re-uniting Cyprus

Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides said ignoring the government's call for greater EU involvement in the peace talks would expose the union to charges of hypocrisy. According to reports, the government would like to see the European Council appoint a special envoy to the talks. The thinking behind the proposal is that the opinion of a more senior Council representative would have more political weight than a European Commission technocrat. The Greek Cypriot leadership wants to see the rights and obligations emanating from EU law enshrined in any solution, rather than a host of derogations from EU law to satisfy Turkish Cypriot demands. Press reports suggest the government's call for greater EU involvement has not been warmly received either by Turkey, the UN or the EU. "Perhaps [the EU] doesn't want to. Perhaps it wants to play the role of Pontius Pilate," said Kasoulides (*Cyprus-Mail*, CY, 15/10).

- *Cyprus-Mail*, CY, 15/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131015/mi/item\\_172646417.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131015/mi/item_172646417.pdf)

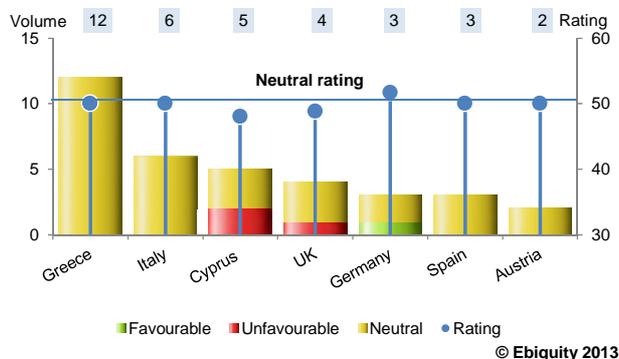
## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
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**ELARG: Highlights**  
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Volume	39 items
Rating	49.7
Favourable %	2.6%
Unfavourable %	7.7%
Neutral %	89.7%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	13
Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece)	13
Ditmir Bushati (Foreign Minister, Albania)	11
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Herman van Rompuy (President, European Council)	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
Ioannis Kasoulides (Foreign Minister, Cyprus)	3
Enrico Letta (Prime Minister, Italy)	3

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