

## Key Quotes

The Minister for Europe, David Lidington, welcomed the publication 16 October of the European Commission's Annual Enlargement Package. Mr Lidington said **"I welcome these reports. Enlargement is one of the EU's greatest achievements, and the UK strongly supports further enlargement - once the conditions are met - to all of the Western Balkans and Turkey, as part of our vision of an open, flexible Europe. Preparing for EU membership can transform countries. It encourages them to carry out far-reaching reforms that help to entrench the EU values of democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, building the foundations for prosperity, security and stability across the continent, and helping to tackle UK priorities such as organised crime, migration crime and corruption"** (Gov.uk, UK, 16/10).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-europe-welcomes-eu-enlargement-package>

Concern over Albania's European Union application. Ukip deputy leader Paul Nuttall said **"It would be utter madness to bring Albania into the EU, another country with huge issues of criminal activity and terrifying poverty. We can see now what will happen and we must act to stop it"** (Express.co.uk, UK, 17/10).

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/437333/Concern-over-Albania-s-European-Union-application>

Several MEPs have criticized the European Commission's course to Turkey as too soft. Markus Ferber (MEP) said that it is **"about time to show the red card to Turkey"** (Orf.at, AT, 16/10).

<http://news.orf.at/stories/2202568/>

## Summary

### Turkish accession to the EU

The European Commission will encourage EU member states to take the next step in matters of Turkey's accession to the EU. According to the European Commission's annual enlargement report, there is no reason for a further delay, for the country has shown positive development. This refers to resuming negotiations of the Turkish leadership with the PKK and planned constitutional amendments in favour of Kurds (Frankfurter-Allgemeine-Zeitung, DE, 16/10). Christiane Schlötzer, comments that the report is a scolding, nicely wrapped, she commented that in its progress report on Turkey the European Commission acknowledged the Gezi movement as an expression of a democratic maturation process, making Turkish civil society more colourful and lively. She notes that the Commission recommends the resumption of long blocked accession negotiations and according to the author, the government owes the demonstrators who strove for freedom and democracy. The message to Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan, she says, is that Europe is opening the door to Turkey again a crack. Before the EU negotiations with Turkey started in 2005, Erdoğan and his AKP party had surprised with rapid reform, then the will to change slackened and Erdoğan demonstrated self-confidence instead. There is the suggestion that Ankara would rather be a regional power rather than a member of a club with shared sovereignty. The author submits it would be good if Turkey did not cut the ties that connect it with the EU. (Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 16/10).

- Frankfurter-Allgemeine-Zeitung, DE, 16/10, [link not available]
- Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 16/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131016/mi/item\\_172755871.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131016/mi/item_172755871.pdf)

### Serbia should be the 29th star of the EU

For the first time, Serbia's Orthodox Church has called on Serbs in Kosovo to participate in next month's local elections. On October 14 while visiting a monastery in the city of Peć in western Kosovo, Patriarch Irinej said that it would be tragic if Serbs boycotted the November 3 vote and failed to form governments in regions where they make up the majority population. If the Serbs are in a position to vote, Irinej said, let them vote **"for the best among them, for the men of renown and authority, whose word will mean something."** In August, Kosovar Serb leaders threatened to boycott the vote, saying it was unacceptable if organized under local laws. Some 40,000 Serbs in Kosovo refuse to recognize Pristina's authority after Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008. The community boycotted the last local polls in 2010 (rferl.org, CZ, 15/10). Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta said that **"Serbia should become the 29th star of the EU,"** following a summit between the two countries in Ancona on Tuesday. Prime Minister Letta called the objective a **"big priority"** and said that now **"all necessary steps must be made"**. Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić has said that Italy is one of Serbia's most important economic and political partners and that relations between the two countries are excellent (italianinsider.it, IT, 15/10).

- rferl.org, CZ, 15/10, <http://www.rferl.org/content/serbia-kosovo-vote/25137456.html>
- italianinsider.it, IT, 15/10, <http://www.italianinsider.it/?q=node/1766>

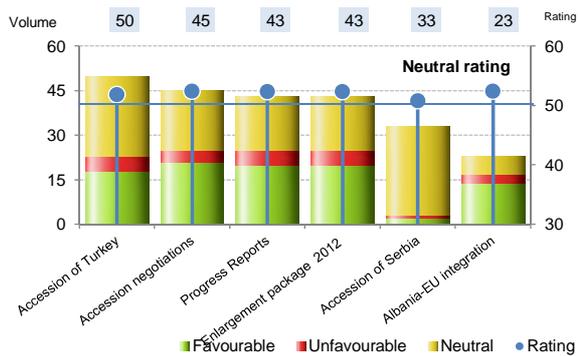
### EC recommends setting a date to start accession talks with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

However members of the Greek Parliament said in Brussels that Greece may not be in solidarity with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as they say there is no such country (dnevnik.bg, BG, 16/10).

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 16/10, [http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/10/16/2161701\\_spered\\_grucki\\_deputati\\_stranata\\_republika\\_makedoniia/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/10/16/2161701_spered_grucki_deputati_stranata_republika_makedoniia/?ref=rss)

## Charts

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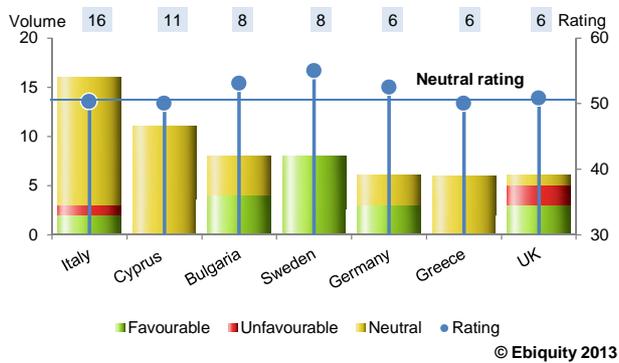
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<b>Volume</b>	76 items
<b>Rating</b>	51.6
<b>Favourable %</b>	31.6%
<b>Unfavourable %</b>	6.6%
<b>Neutral %</b>	61.8%

**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)	12
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	10
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	10
Enrico Letta (Prime Minister, Italy)	10
Herman van Rompuy (President, European Council)	9
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	9
Egemen Bağış (Minister for EU Affairs, Turkey)	6

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