



Key Quotes

"Germany is to drop the opposition it raised in June to opening a new chapter of talks with European Union membership candidate Turkey after its crackdown on a wave of anti-government protests earlier this year," a source said. EU governments are to consider the Commission's report at a meeting on October 22 and debate whether to start talks on a new policy area or chapter. A source close to the German government said **"Berlin would drop its opposition"** (Reuters, UK, 20/10)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/20/uk-germany-turkey-eu-idUKBRE99J04N20131020>

EU candidate Montenegro has enabled a first-ever Gay Pride march by 150 activists in its capital Podgorica. Police squads repelled anti-gay protestors and later escorted the participants to safety. **"As of today the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community is no longer invisible in Montenegro, but we will continue the fight for our rights,"**said organizer Danijel Kalezic after Sunday's Podgorica march (dw.de, DE, 20/10)

<http://www.dw.de/eu-aspirant-montenegro-guards-gay-march/a-17170788>

Summary

EU enlargement: Priority is fundamental principles

In an article published one day after the release of the 2013 Strategy Paper on enlargement, EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle stressed that countries that wish to accede to the EU must respect the Union's fundamental principles, and must prove that they respect the rule of law, transparent economic governance, freedom of expression, independence of media and human rights and the rights of minorities. The Commissioner also addressed the main concerns of European citizens over EU enlargement, and outlined the benefits of enlargement (philenews.com, CY, 17/10). He added *"When talking to EU citizens, I am often confronted with their concerns, however, more integration means more trade and more demand for products and services, which in turn means stronger growth and more jobs."* And, he went to say, *"A stronger Europe will be better prepared to cope with the impact of the crisis.....the crisis has shown that all countries need to improve their competitiveness"* Wirtschaftsblatt (AT, 18/10). He said the EU benefits from the accession procedure, since it opens the way to a more secure, stable and prosperous Europe (news.in.gr, EL, 17/10). However, an opinion piece in Telegraaf (NL, 18/10) suggested that further enlargement would make the EU too large and too bureaucratic. Also, it was suggested Mr Füle should be more critical towards countries with fragile democracies, like Turkey. The EU already counts several countries with doubtful records when it comes to democracy and human rights. Romania and Bulgaria being mentioned as the most prominent examples.

- philenews.com, CY, 17/10, <http://www.philenews.com/el-gr/eidiseis-kosmos/47/167129/dieiryysi-tis-ee-proteraiotita-stis-themeliodeis-arches>
- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 18/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131018/mi/item_173041908.pdf
- news.in.gr, EL, 17/10, <http://news.in.gr/world/article/?aid=1231269668>
- Telegraaf (NE, 18/10), http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131018/mi/item_173018855.pdf

Green light for Turkish EU Accession

The European Commission's progress report on Turkey's accession to the EU has come under criticism. *"Where blood has been shed, the European Commission cannot simply be business as usual,"* said the chairman of the CDU / CSU parliamentary group in the European Parliament, Herbert Reul. (jungefreiheit.de, DE, 17/10). Susanne Güsten writing in Nurnberger-Nachrichten (DE, 17/10) suggests that the way Ankara dealt with the uprising would have given the EU more than one good reason to put diplomatic relations on hold. However, instead of reproaching Ankara, the European Commission is full of praise. Brussels recommends opening new chapters in the accession process. Brussels' reasons are most likely selfish. The EU has no interest in releasing Turkey from the tight corset of accession negotiations. EU-Turkey trade is becoming increasingly more important and so is Turkey's role in international disputes for example in Syria or Iran. Rebuffing Turkey is less beneficial than urging it towards reforms.

- jungefreiheit.de, DE, 17/10, <http://www.jungefreiheit.de/Single-News-Display-mit-Komm.154+M5806e8fc02b.0.html>
- Nurnberger-Nachrichten, DE, 17/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131017/mi/item_172970772.pdf

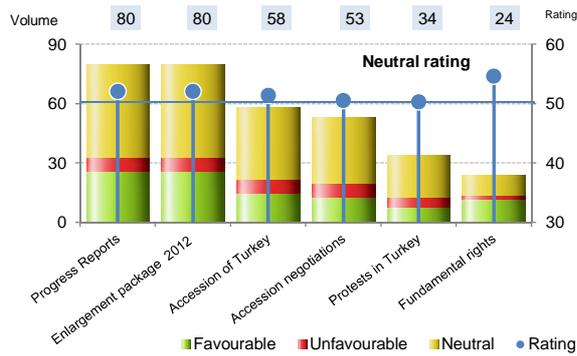
Name Dispute

Without a positive evaluation on neighbourly relations from neighbouring countries there will be no green-light for the EU accession talks. This is the assessment from the meeting between Bulgarian and Greek foreign ministers – Kristian Vigenin and Evangelos Venizelos, held in Athens a day after the European Commission released its progress report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, writes Utrinski Vesnik daily. According to the newspaper, the two countries expect the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to solve the open issues so as to back its EU membership (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/10).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/10, <http://focus-fen.net/?id=n316994>

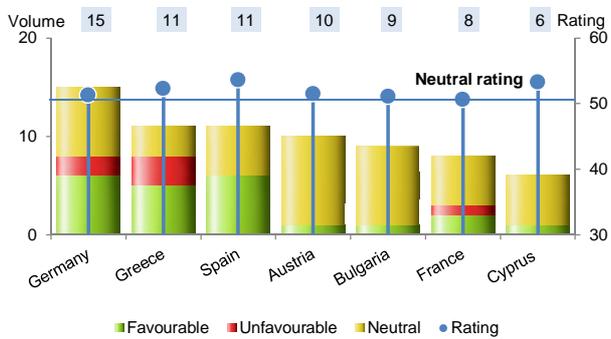
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	24
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	10
Egemen Bağış (Minister for EU Affairs, Turkey)	8
Maria Damanaki (Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC)	5
Bülent Arınç (Speaker Parliament, Turkey)	4

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