



Key Quotes

EU to restart Turkey membership talks in move to encourage reforms. The talks on fundamental rights and the judiciary had to be opened **"as soon as possible to make it clear that if Turkey is moving towards Europe, it has to undertake reforms in these areas so that human rights are observed"**, said Michael Spindelegger, the Austrian foreign minister (The Guardian, UK, 21/10).

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/21/turkey-eu-membership-talks-restart-reforms>

"Romania fully supports Serbia's accession to EU", says Romanian PM. **"Serbia can learn from both the good things and the mistakes made by Romania in the integration process, but Serbia belongs in the EU and for us, this will be a historic decision,"** Romanian PM Victor Ponta stated (Romania-insider.com, RO, 21/10).

<http://www.romania-insider.com/romania-fully-supports-serbias-accession-to-eu-romanian-pm-says/108198/>

Summary

Turkey rejects EU view of handling of protests but is pleased with report

Turkey on Saturday rejected European Union criticism of its handling of anti-government protests earlier this year, but said a report on its progress towards joining the bloc showed it had come closer to European economic and democratic standards. In the government's first official response to the commission's report, released on Wednesday, EU Affairs Minister Egemen Bağış said the European Commission's support for fresh talks on a new policy area proved Turkey was making progress in the reform process. **"We are pleased that this year's progress report emphasises the important reforms Turkey has realised,"** Bağış said (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 19/10). Presseurop.eu (FR, 18/10) quoting *"Radikal"* said that the recent report on progress in negotiations on Turkey's accession to the EU finally deals sensitively with the issue and should trigger a calm debate among the Turkish public on its relationship with the Union. The latest report on the state of progress in negotiations on Turkey's EU accession offers a welcome escape from the atmosphere of polarisation in Turkey, and gives us a measure of the progress our country has made. Indeed, while one can read that **"the mass graves discovered in the east of the country have not been sufficiently investigated"**, we cannot help but rejoice at the end of this nightmare we experienced during the 1990s [in the eastern regions with a Kurdish majority]. At the time, people were being killed every day and their bodies dumped in the street. While the European Commission is pleased that the **"activities in Turkey marking the anniversary of the Armenian genocide [on April 24] could take place peacefully and unhindered"**, one recalls that not so long ago, in 2005, an academic debate on the Armenian question held in Istanbul caused significant tensions. The issues addressed in this report are no longer the same issues as 10 or 20 years ago.

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 19/10, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-rejects-eu-view-handling-protests-pleased-report-130245208.html#QIOHgr3>
- presseurop.eu, FR, 18/10, <http://www.presseurop.eu/fr/content/article/4247001-bruxelles-met-enfin-une-bonne-note?xtor=RSS-18>

EU commitment to European integration of Montenegro.

The EC President, José Manuel Barroso, underlined that **"The European Union remains committed to the enlargement policy, especially in the integration process of Montenegro. We will continue our support for the efforts undertaken by your country"** (voria.gr, EL, 17/10). However clashes between police and hundreds of people hostile to the progress of the first Gay Pride held in Podgorica led to twenty wounded officers in the capital of Montenegro, a very conservative country negotiating its accession to the European Union (actu.orange.fr, FR, 20/10). Opponents of the Gay Pride threw stones and firecrackers at the police who prevented them from approaching the marchers. The Montenegrin government, which began accession negotiations with the EU in June 2012, supported the event (reloaded.e-llico.com, FR, 20/10).

- voria.gr, EL, 17/10, <http://www.voria.gr/index.php?module=news&func=display&sid=153282>
- actu.orange.fr, FR, 20/10, http://actu.orange.fr/monde/montenegro-incidentes-en-marge-de-la-premiere-gay-pride-afp_2626546.html
- reloaded.e-llico.com, FR, 20/10, [link not available]

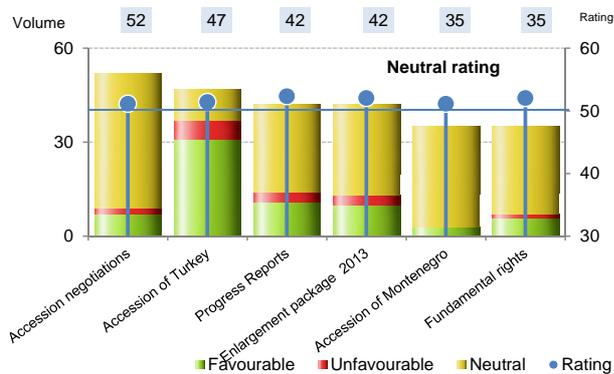
Economic barometer

Kosovo is between corruption and Brussels; Negotiations about Kosovo's rapprochement with the EU are starting this week. A first important step towards the EU will be taken if these negotiations end with a stabilisation and association agreement. Basically, the EU thinks there is a clear European perspective for the entire Western Balkans region. However, there is still a long way to go until Kosovo will be able to join the European Union (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 21/10).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 21/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131021/mi/item_173341512.pdf

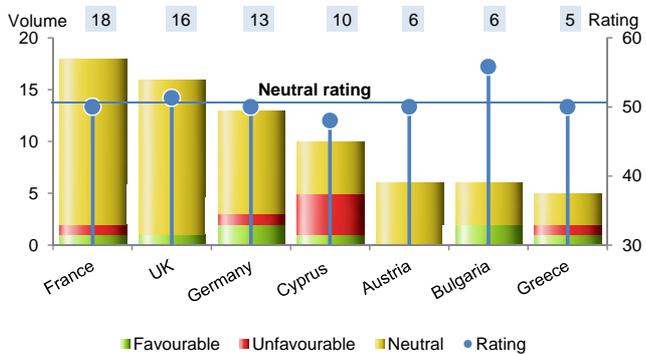
Charts

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Volume	91 items
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Neutral %	79.1%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Egemen Bağış (Minister for EU Affairs, Turkey)	14
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	12
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	10
Peter Stano (Spokesperson Enlargement, EC)	5
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	5
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	5
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

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