



Key Quotes

"Barroso for EU-accession of all Balkan countries". European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso has called for inclusion of all Balkan countries into the EU. He told Bild newspaper it [the EU] would take them in the long term if they meet the conditions and criteria. It should not be forgotten that many of the Balkan countries have been at war against each other a few years ago. The EU accession will give them a perspective and is an important lever to peace in the region. (Bild Zeitung, DE, 23/10)

<http://www.bild.de/news/aktuell/news/barroso-fuer-eubeitritt-aller-balkanlaender-33089026.bild.html>

Summary

Elections in Kosovo

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton on Tuesday told reporters at the end of the first EU-Serbia Association Council that she thinks local elections scheduled to take place on November 3 in Kosovo will be successful. Ashton expressed the hope that turnout would be high and said she is constantly in contact with Serbian Premier Ivica Dačić and Kosovo's Premier Hashim Thaçi so the vote can take place as freely as possible. She said problems ahead of the vote would be worked out with the greatest determination. In its latest enlargement report released last week, the EU Commission said Belgrade should continue to encourage the widespread participation of Kosovo's Serbians in the upcoming local elections (ansa.it, IT, 22/10).

- ansa.it, IT, 22/10, http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/10/22/Kosovo-Ashton-Ue-penso-elezioni-locali-avranno-successo_9498375.html

Journalist sentenced to four and a half years in prison in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

An investigative journalist in Macedonia has been imprisoned for revealing the identity of a witness in a murder case in a sentencing that has raised questions of press freedom in the country. The Skopje First Basic Court on October 21 sentenced Tomislav Kezarovski to 4 1/2 years in jail. Kezarovski, who worked for the "Nova Makedonija" daily, was arrested in May for an article he wrote in 2008. Investigators say he revealed the identity of a protected witness in a murder case in the article. Kezarovski insists the witness did not have protected status at the time when he wrote the article (rferl.org, CZ, 21/10).

- rferl.org, CZ, 21/10, <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/25143389.html>

EU states want to continue accession talks with Turkey

The EU's European affairs ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, said the talks would restart on 5 November, after being stalled for three years. The EU had first agreed to relaunch negotiations in June, but postponed the talks after members criticised Turkey's crackdown on anti-government protests. Turkey first applied for full membership of what was then the European Economic Community in 1987. The ministers of the 28 EU members based their latest decision on a recommendation by the European Commission. In its 2013 progress report on Turkey published last week, the Commission had criticised as excessive the use of force by Turkish police in dealing with widespread demonstrations. But it recognised that Turkey had introduced judicial reforms. It also praised the announcement last month by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of a series of political reforms, including increased rights for Kurds (BBC Online, UK, 23/10).

- BBC Online, UK, 22/10, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24620463>
- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 22/10, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/eu-restart-turkey-membership-talks-011736106.html#xlywUK6>

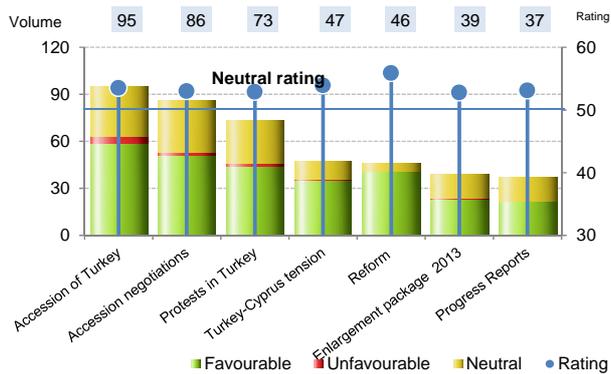
Bosnia's international footballers have offered their political leaders a valuable lesson

Last week the national football side won a place at the World Cup finals for the first time, two years after Bosnia was briefly suspended from international competition for letting ethnic politics pervade the sport. "My message today to Bosnian politicians is: follow the example of your footballers and live up to expectations of your citizens," said European Union enlargement chief Štefan Füle the day after Bosnia qualified for the World Cup finals. (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, UK, 22/10).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 22/10, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/bosnian-football-success-sets-example-healing-ethnic-divide-061539134--sow.html#DnCEIzL>

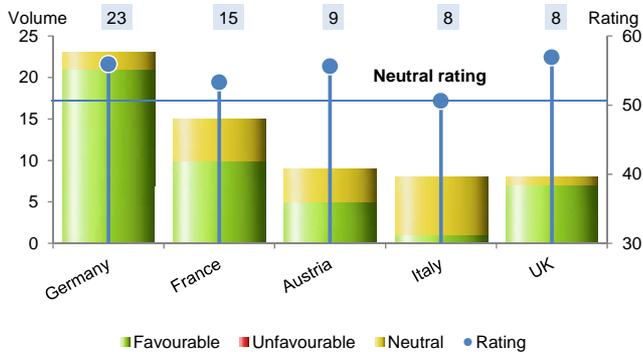
Charts

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	44
Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands)	18
Michael Link (Commissioner for Franco-German Cooperation, Germany)	18
Jean Asselborn (Foreign Minister, Luxembourg)	17
Linas Linkevičius (Foreign Minister, Lithuania)	14
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	13
Egemen Bağış (Minister for EU Affairs, Turkey)	13

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