

Key Quotes

Kosovo's minority Serbs, who vehemently reject the territory's independence, are torn over whether to vote in crunch local elections backed by former Yugoslav master Serbia for the first time. After urging Kosovo's ethnic Serbs to boycott local elections in 2010, Belgrade is now calling on them to take part in the November 3 vote after an historic EU-brokered deal to normalise ties with Pristina. On Saturday, Serbia's Prime Minister Ivica Dačić visited a town near Pristina where he called on Kosovo Serbs to **"unite in order to defend the interests of Serbia"** in the breakaway territory. **"We ask you to vote. Your government tells you that it is in your best interest,"** said Dačić, referring to Belgrade (eubusiness.com, UK, 24/10).

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/kosovo-vote-serbia.r14/>

Summary

EU to revive accession talks with Turkey

Keen to breathe new life into Ankara's long-stalled effort to prise open the EU door, the 28-nation bloc had agreed to the resumption in principle in June, but then postponed the process in protest over Turkey's spring crackdown. The November negotiations will focus on regional development, one of 35 chapters or sets of EU rules and standards that candidate states must satisfy before winning entry to the club. Turkey's EU Minister Egemen Bağış called Tuesday's decision to resume accession talks a *"delayed but positive development."* In Brussels, the bloc's Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle also welcomed the decision. "Accession negotiations need to regain momentum, respecting the EU's commitments and established conditionality," he said in a statement adding *"I hope more chapters will follow"* (eubusiness.com, UK, 22/10). Füle noted that the recent developments in Turkey underline the importance of EU engagement and of the EU remaining the benchmark for reform in Turkey. To this end, accession negotiations need to regain momentum, respecting the EU's commitments and established conditionality. In this regard, today's decision represents an important step, Mr Füle concluded (Naftemporiki, EL, 23/10). The British government, which has long been one of the strongest advocates of Turkish membership, said it hoped the talks would lead to further reform. *"The EU process has driven wide-ranging reform in Turkey,"* said a UK government spokesman. *"We have a shared interest in maintaining an active and credible accession process"* (Financial-Times, UK, 23/10). However the former French Justice Minister Rachida Dati, MEP of the European People's Party (EPP), today criticized the EU's decision to open a new chapter in the accession negotiations with Ankara calling it irresponsible in the current European crisis. *"The EU should make a permanent pause in enlargement"* she added (e-typos.com, EL, 22/10).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 22/10, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/enlarge-turkey.qzv>
- Naftemporiki, EL, 23/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131023/mi/item_173594800.pdf
- Financial-Times, UK, 23/10, [link not available]
- e-typos.com, EL, 22/10, <http://www.e-typos.com/Post.aspx?id=42422&title=%25CE%2593%25CE%25B1%25CE%25BB%25CE%25BB%25CE%25AF%25CE%25B4%25CE%25B1%2520%25CF%2580%25CE%25BF%25CE%25BB%25CE%25B9%25CF%2584%25CE%25B9%25CE%25BA%25CF%258C%25CF%2582%2520%25CE%25BA%25CE%25B1%25CF%2584%25CE%2>

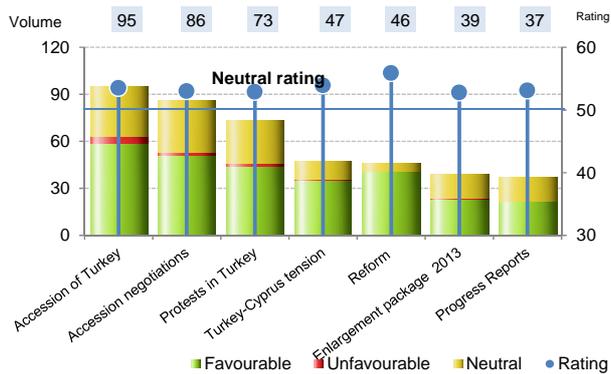
Accession of Serbia

Serbia wants to become an EU member 'as soon as possible', and deserves adhesion by developing a democratic society before it becomes part of the Union, Serbian Premier Ivica Dačić said on Tuesday after the first meeting of the EU-Serbia Association Council. Dačić stressed that Belgrade today wants to be perceived as a trustworthy partner by the 28 member states. *"The EU is the first commercial partner for Serbia, exchanges are worth 61% of our foreign trade: in 2001 it was worth 3 billion euros, last year it totalled 13 million euros,"* explained Dačić. Along the path leading the country towards adhesion, the Serbian premier expressed the intention of normalizing relations with Pristina and quickly consolidate the economic and financial system. As noted in the latest European commission report on enlargement released last week, 2013 was an historic year for Serbia before the start of adhesion talks in January 2014 at the latest, said Dačić. *"Let's take this opportunity and use it to reform the country,"* he said. In the meeting's conclusions, the European Union noted that the stabilization and association agreement with Serbia, which became effective in September 2013, is an important step in the integration process and provides the framework within which the EU and Serbia will intensify cooperation on political criteria and on a legal and commercial level (ansamed.info, IT, 22/10).

- ansamed.info, IT, 22/10, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/serbia/2013/10/22/Serbia-Dacic-investing-EU-adhesion-soon-possible_9498757.html

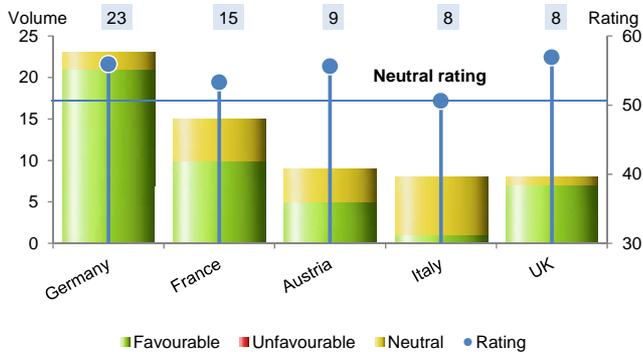
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	44
Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands)	18
Michael Link (Commissioner 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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