

## Key Quotes

Kristian Vigenin: *"We fully support the European integration process of Montenegro. Montenegro can serve as a good example for the other countries in the region in terms of its approach to the negotiations with the European Union. We welcome and encourage the progress made by the country in the accession process and a key factor for this is the political will for reform,"* said Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Kristian Vigenin (mfa.bg, BG, 25/10).

<http://www.mfa.bg/bq/events/6/1/2297/index.html>

The Turkish minister for European Union affairs, Egemen Bağış, says the EU decision to open a new area of discussion on Turkey's membership bid is a positive sign. Bağış said in an interview with The Associated Press that slow progress is producing doubts in Turkey about whether the European Union will ever offer membership. *"Of course we are very, very frustrated and sometimes I question the sincerity of some of the European decision makers,"* he said (nieuws.nl, NL, 25/10).

<http://www.nieuws.nl/algemeen/20131025/Turkije-blij-met-voortgang-boos-om-hindernissen>

## Summary

### Turkey Cyprus tension

Turkish Cypriot Foreign Minister, Ozdil Nami held 18 meetings in two days in Strasbourg, including with EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle. Speaking to Turkish Cypriot daily Kibris, Nami said that the EU desires an immediate and permanent solution to the Cyprus problem and concluded that EU officials see a large window of opportunity (Politis-Cyprus, CY, 25/10). However speaking at the EP Plenary in Strasbourg, MEP Takis Hadjigeorgiou criticised Vice - President Catherine Ashton for not even mentioning the occupation of Cyprus by Turkey. He said that she is avoiding saying or doing anything. *"Either you are not interested in the matter, or you are afraid or you are ignoring whatever you can and you are obliged to work for the full freedom and independence of a member state"*(Haravgi, CY, 25/10).

- Politis-Cyprus, CY, 25/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131025/mi/item\\_173867312.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131025/mi/item_173867312.pdf)
- Haravgi, CY, 25/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131025/mi/item\\_173867501.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131025/mi/item_173867501.pdf)

### Turkey Serbia tension

*"The statement by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan which claimed Kosovo was his other homeland cannot be considered as a friendly one"*, the Serbian Ministry for Foreign Affairs announced on Thursday. Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić said that Erdoğan's statement was undiplomatic. *"It is not helpful with regard to political stability in Kosovo and Metohija"*, Dačić said. Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandar Vučić, who was on a visit to Israel, said that Erdoğan should apologise to Serbia. On Wednesday, Erdoğan in Prizren said that *"the cultures of Kosovo and Turkey can differ, but the citizens of both belong to same country"*. Erdoğan visited Kosovo accompanied by Albanian PM Edi Rama and more than 600 Turkish businessmen and public figures as well. Erdoğan and Rama had a meeting with their counterpart in Priština, Hashim Thaçi. *"Dear brothers and friends, we share the same history of culture and civilization. Do not forget, Turkey is Kosovo, and Kosovo is Turkey"*, Erdoğan stressed, adding that composer of Turkish national anthem Âkif Ersoy was born in Kosovo. Thaçi thanked the Turkish Prime Minister for the extraordinary close and comprehensive cooperation between Kosovo and Turkey, Priština's media reported. He recalled that Turkey was the first country to recognise unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo in 2008. (balkaneu.com, GR, 25/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 25/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/serbia-condemns-erdoqans-kosovo-turkey/>

### Albanian accession

A draft resolution, asking that Albania be granted EU candidate country status, was presented to the EU's foreign affairs committee meeting in Strasbourg Thursday, according to a news release here. The draft, initiated by Nikola Vuljanić, who reports for Albania at the European Parliament (EP), recognises Albania's progress in its efforts to meet the European integration reforms and grant the country EU candidacy later in 2013. It said that a lot remains to be done by the Albanian government, particularly concerning the public administration reform, the fight against organised crime and corruption, judicial independence and media pluralism (balkans.com, CY, 25/10).

- balkans.com, CY, 25/10, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniqueNumber=183875>

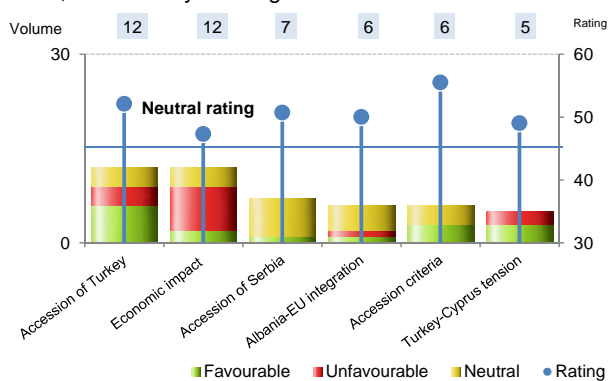
### Corruption in the Balkans

The percentage of businesses experiencing bribery over a 12-month period is high in Serbia (17 percent) and Albania (15.7 percent), while more bribes are paid by businesses in Croatia (8.8 bribes per year) and in Kosovo (7.7 bribes per year). The most expensive bribes are paid in Kosovo (average 1,787 EUR per bribe) and Serbia (average 935 EUR per bribe) (Zurnal24, SI, 25/10).

- Zurnal24, SI, 25/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131025/mi/item\\_173867556.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131025/mi/item_173867556.pdf)

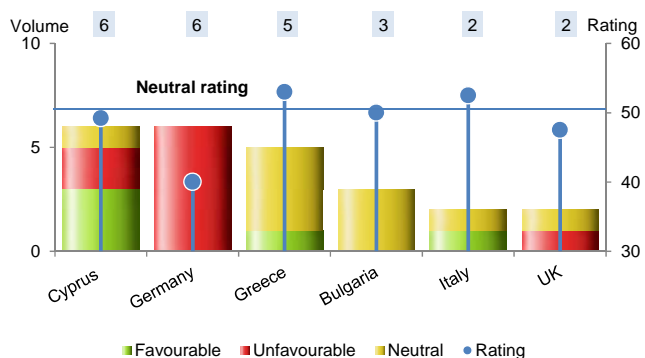
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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources  | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)  | 7                  |
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)   | 4                  |
| Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)                                       | 3                  |
| Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU) | 2                  |
| Nikola Gruevski (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)                           | 2                  |
| Ozdil Nami (Turkish Cypriot Foreign Minister)  | 2                  |
| Franco Frattini (Advisor to the Serbian Government)  | 2                  |
| Takis Hadjigeorgiou (MEP)  | 2                  |

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