



Key Quotes

The European Union has launched negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Kosovo. **"This is an acknowledgment of Kosovo's efforts in moving forward key reforms, as well as to their progress in building neighbourly relations with Serbia,"** said EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle ([kleinezeitung.at](http://www.kleinezeitung.at), AT, 28/10).

<http://www.kleinezeitung.at/nachrichten/politik/3451773/kosovo-startete-verhandlungen-eu.story>

Victor Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania: **"I personally have a great appreciation and admiration for the extraordinary progress made by Turkey in the last decade and we extend absolute and unconditional support for Turkey's EU accession. Europe needs Turkey as much as Turkey would need Europe. I truly believe that a Europe that would include Turkey is a stronger Europe, a more respected Europe internationally and that European standards certainly make us all progress towards democracy, our economic development and the fight against poverty, extremism and all the other negative aspects of our society"** ([nineoclock.ro](http://www.nineoclock.ro), RO, 28/10).

<http://www.nineoclock.ro/unconditional-support-for-the-turkey%E2%80%99s-eu-accession/>

Summary

Bulgarian support for Turkish accession

Bulgaria stands behind Turkey's bid to become a full member of the European Union, stated Bulgaria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Kristian Vigenin. On an official trip to Turkey, where he met Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoğlu, he went on to comment that: **"Bulgaria supports Turkey's EU membership application. We are happy with the decision to open negotiations on chapter 22,"** said the Bulgarian diplomat, quoted by CNN Türk. **"We consider it is necessary to speed up activities on the preparation of a roadmap for EU visa liberalisation regarding Turkish citizens,"** added Vigenin. Concerning bilateral relations, the Bulgarian diplomat also singled out energy and transport infrastructure (novinite.com, BG, 27/10). And, on the subject of illegal immigration, he emphasised the issue was of high importance for Bulgaria and that it mostly related to the crisis in Syria. He said there was good cooperation between the two countries and expressed hope that joint activities would continue (focus-fen.net, BG, 27/10).

- [novinite.com](http://www.novinite.com/articles/154956/Bulgaria+Supports+Turkey's+EU+Bid+-+FM), BG, 27/10, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/154956/Bulgaria+Supports+Turkey's+EU+Bid+-+FM>
- [focus-fen.net](http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n317666), BG, 27/10, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n317666>

Serbian protests at remarks made by Turkish Premier

Serbia's government says it will formally protest about the remarks Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made during a visit to Kosovo recently when he emphasised the shared history and culture between the two countries. A Serbian government statement said on October 25 that Erdoğan's comments represent **"a severe violation of international law and interference in Serbia's internal affairs"**. It went on to say that **"it harms relations between Belgrade and Ankara and disturbs efforts deployed by Serbia to normalise the situation in the region, notably in Kosovo"**.

- [rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org/content/turkey-kosovo-erdogan/25148645.html), CZ, 26/10, <http://www.rferl.org/content/turkey-kosovo-erdogan/25148645.html>

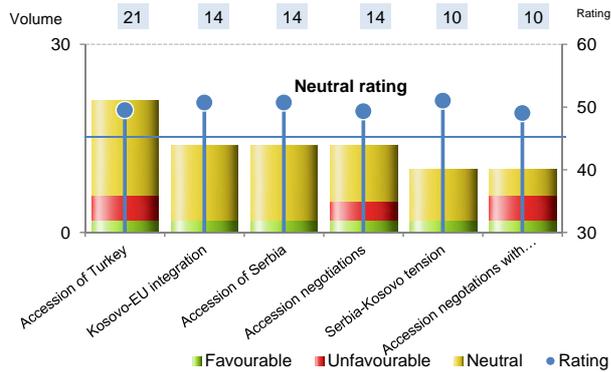
Kosovo issues arrest warrant for Serb minister for illegal entry

Kosovo has issued an arrest warrant for a Serbian minister who entered the country illegally, a police spokesman said on Saturday, a move that may hamper implementation of a deal to normalise ties between Priština and Belgrade. Priština authorities said Aleksandar Vulin, the Serbian Minister in charge of Kosovo, had visited ethnic Serbs living in northern Kosovo last week during campaigning for the local elections on November 3. Vulin, who is now back in Belgrade, could not be reached by telephone. A Serbian government spokesman declined to comment. Serbia's Blic daily quoted Prime Minister Ivica Dačić as saying that the arrest of Vulin would be a violation of the Brussels agreement mediated by the EU's Foreign Policy Chief, Catherine Ashton. **"Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi assured me himself in the presence of Ashton that Vulin can travel to Kosovo whenever and wherever he wants"** Dačić was quoted as saying. Dačić himself visited Kosovo recently and urged Serbs to take part in the municipal elections (uk.reuters.com, UK, 26/10). In an interview published in the Berliner-Zeitung (DE, 26/10), Atifete Jahjaga, the President of Kosovo, talked about the regional elections in Kosovo and the participation of the Serbian minority being an indicator of Kosovo's and Serbia's capability to join the EU.

- [uk.reuters.com](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/26/uk-kosovo-serbia-minister-idUKBRE99P07520131026?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews), UK, 26/10, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/26/uk-kosovo-serbia-minister-idUKBRE99P07520131026?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>
- Berliner-Zeitung, DE, 26/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131026/mi/item_174009619.pdf

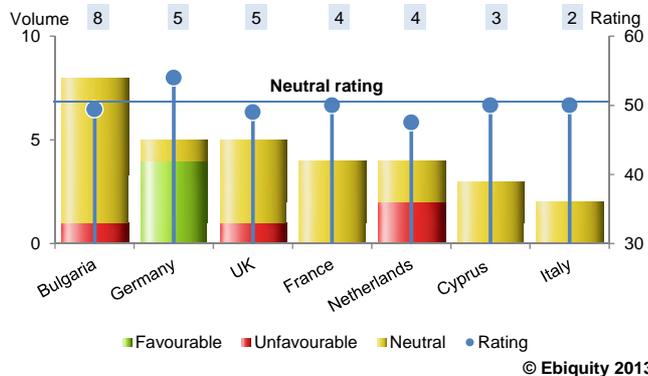
Charts

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Volume	35 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	11.4%
Unfavourable %	11.4%
Neutral %	77.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Aleksandar Vulin (Minister in charge of Kosovo and Metohija, Serbia)	6
Kristian Vigenin (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	6
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	5
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	4

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