

Key Quotes

The United Nations welcomes the participation of the European Union in the Cyprus peace talks and remains committed to assisting both parties in finding a lasting political solution to end the division of the island. In a statement, in which the UN in Cyprus **"refutes allegations made in the media on 28 October 2013 concerning the existence of a letter by the Special Adviser of the Secretary General in Cyprus, Mr. Alexander Downer, to European Commission President, Mr. José Manuel Barroso,"** the Spokesperson of the UN in Cyprus notes that the UN **"welcomes the participation of the EU in the Cyprus peace talks"** (Philenews.com, CY, 30/10).

<http://incyprus.philenews.com/en-gb/Cyprus/4170/37777/eu-role-welcomed>

Diplomatic efforts for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to be awarded a date for EU accession talks should be supported but there are dangers that a climate of **"pressure and fear"** is being created in the country, said MEP Richard Howitt (Focus-fen, BG, 30/10).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n317912>

Summary

Stop moving the target on Kosovo, Serbian PM tells EU

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić conceded that delegates attending a forum in London on Tuesday aimed at attracting foreign investment to Serbia were looking for Serbia to join the European Union as a prerequisite for pumping in money. *"The most important thing in our negotiations on EU membership is not going to be an internal issue, but Kosovo,"* Dačić said adding *"For this reason we need to always keep in mind that we should work on the normalisation of relations (with Kosovo) and also on the implementation of agreements that were reached in Brussels"* (eubusiness.com, UK, 29/10). The Serbian government has given a push to sell-offs and privatisation, with a list of 153 state firms for sale. The list includes banking groups, mining companies, and pharmaceutical and mechanical engineering firms, many of which get state subsidies. It is likely some of the firms will have to cease trading, or else find a partner, rather than an outright buyer. Serbia is trying to rebuild its economy to help its EU membership application, and also to get new financing from the World Bank, and resume relations with the IMF (Il Sole-24-Ore, IT, 30/10).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 29/10, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/serbia-kosovo.r5t/>
- Il Sole-24-Ore, IT, 30/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131030/mi/item_174404707.pdf

Spanish reactions to Kosovo negotiations

The talks between the EU and Kosovo for signing their first joint agreement have begun with the objective to seal a stabilisation and partnership agreement enabling the setting up of a free trade area to help improve the dire economic situation of the Balkan country. Spain and other countries that do not recognise Kosovo's independence have agreed to the negotiation, which also aims to spur dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo (Vanguardia, ES, 30/10). Vilaweb (ES, 29/10) thinks the negotiations between Kosovo and the European Commission show how the European Union can negotiate by itself without the approval of Member States and that, it says, is a *"brilliant play"* that leaves Spain without answer after months of threats against the democratic will of Catalanian people. After saying all those who oppose a change said Catalonia cannot be independent because Spain would veto its EU membership, Vilaweb writes that there is no such veto right, or there is a way to avoid it. Europe always finds the way to overcome the obstacles says the website.

- Vanguardia, ES, 30/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131030/mi/item_174406578.pdf
- Vilaweb, ES, 29/10, <http://www.vilaweb.cat/editorial/4152702/unio-europea-respon-espanya-fets.html>

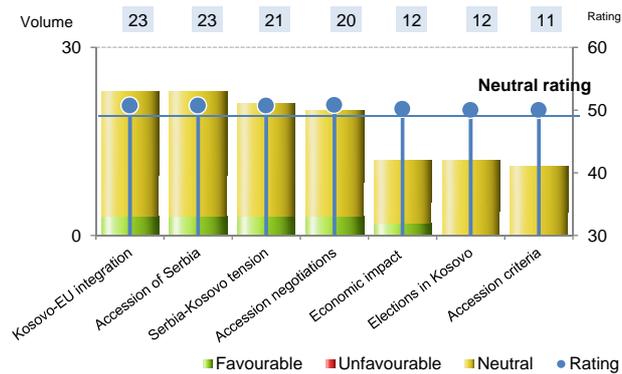
Other accession negotiations

The Minister of European Integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Fatmir Besimi met British MEP Richard Howitt and the EU ambassador to Skopje, Aivo Orav. The meeting discussed the recommendations of the European Commission progress report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the need for the country to make progress in order to strengthen the arguments of being issued a date for the opening of negotiations with the European Union. British MEP Howitt said that the recommendation for the start of talks is a proof that FYROM remains in the enlargement agenda (balkaneu.com, CY, 20/30).

- balkaneu.com, CY, 20/30, <http://www.balkaneu.com/british-mep-howitt-received-minister-integration-fyrom/>

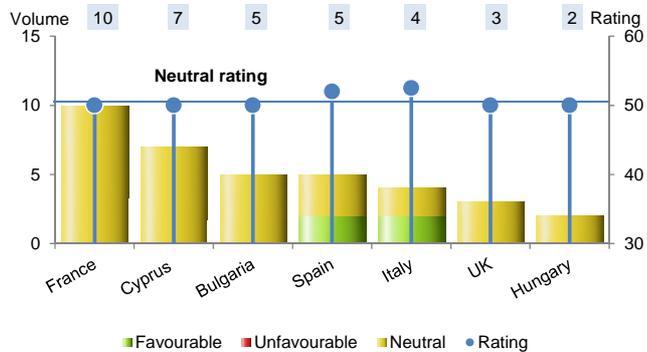
Charts

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Volume	39 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	10.3%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	89.7%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	12
Alexander Downer (Special Adviser on Cyprus, UN)	6
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Ban Ki-moon (Secretary-General, UN)	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Richard Howitt (MEP)	2

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