



Key Quotes

The people of Kosovo went to the polls to choose mayors and local councillors in an election that will test the country's fragile relations with Serbia as both countries seek to move closer to the European Union. **"Let us do something for once that is in our interest and not in the interest of our enemies,"** Serbia's Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić, said. **"The fate of Serbs in Kosovo should be in their own hands, and not (Kosovo Prime Minister, Hashim) Thaçi's or the extremists,"** he added. Whereas Hashim Thaçi, Prime Minister of Kosovo, said after voting in a primary school in the centre of the capital, Pristina: **"These are the first free elections organised in the entire territory of Kosovo. All citizens of Kosovo are participating. They are crucial for our future in Europe."** (news.uk.msn.com, UK, 4/11).
<http://news.uk.msn.com/world/poll-to-test-serbia-deal>

Minister of the Interior of Cyprus, Socratis Hasikos pointed out on Sunday that **"we have no right for a new failure in the effort to find a negotiated settlement in the Cyprus problem"** and thus it was necessary for the Government to reaffirm the basis and methodology of talks for a solution and properly prepare for them. He also said it was necessary for all interested parties, including Turkey, to become directly involved, and pointed out that the EU should have an upgraded role (Cyprus Mail, CY, 4/11).
<http://cyprus-mail.com/2013/11/04/interior-minister-we-have-no-right-to-fail-again-in-cyprus-issue/>

Summary

Aid Packages for Serbia and Kosovo

The European Commission has given the green light to a 15-million-euro aid package for Serbian communities in northern Kosovo. The aid will fund infrastructure, public administration, rural and regional development, and environmental protection projects. The aid is in addition to a 65-70-million-euro pre-accession package for Kosovo. More such funds will be allocated if needed, the EU said. **"Enacting the April 19 accord is vital to normalizing relations between Kosovo and Serbia, and to the European prospects of both"**, commented EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle. **"The aid is proof that the EU is serious about supporting this process in the interests of peace, stability, and the welfare of the region"** he added (ansa.it, IT, 31/10). The special IPA programme will help address the needs of Serb majority municipalities throughout Kosovo, with a specific emphasis on the northern municipalities. Funding will focus on municipal infrastructure, public administration, rural and regional development, employment and environmental protection (balkaneu.com, CY, 31/10).

- ansa.it, IT, 31/10, http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/nations/kosovo/2013/10/31/Kosovo-EU-OKs-15-mln-euro-aid-Serbian-communities_9551693.html
- balkaneu.com, CY, 31/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/additional-eu-funding-support-normalisation-relations-kosovo-serbia/>

Portrait of Aleksandar Vučić

Before he popped up this month with a warning that Serbia was close to bankruptcy but pledging to bring in billions of dollars of loans from the United Arab Emirates, few outsiders had heard of deputy premier Aleksandar Vučić. Yet the intense 43-year-old has emerged since general elections last year as Serbia's most powerful, and highest-rated, politician. A poll last month found two-thirds of Serbs thought he should be Prime Minister. Even more surprising, the former nationalist has reinvented himself as a champion of Serbia's quest to begin EU membership talks. Though Ivica Dačić, Serbia's Prime Minister, led talks with Kosovo that delivered a ground-breaking agreement to normalise relations with the breakaway former province, Mr Vučić was seen as a driving force behind the deal. The agreement could pave the way for Serbia to start EU talks by January. **"We think that [EU membership] is the best possible way for our people to share the same values. We think Serbia belongs in the European world, no less than our neighbours"** Mr Vučić told the Financial Times in an interview (ft.com, UK, 1/11).

- ft.com, UK, 1/11, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/878ceb02-416e-11e3-9073-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2jMybm6wd>

Foreign Ministers Meeting in Hungary

A meeting of foreign ministers will be held in Gödöllő this Thursday. The foreign ministers of 20 countries have been invited. Since the participants represent EU Member States as well as countries who are applying for EU membership, Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner, Štefan Füle and Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu will also attend the meeting. US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland will also be there (Nepszabadsag, HU, 31, 10).

- Nepszabadsag, HU, 31, 10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131031/mi/item_174536457.pdf

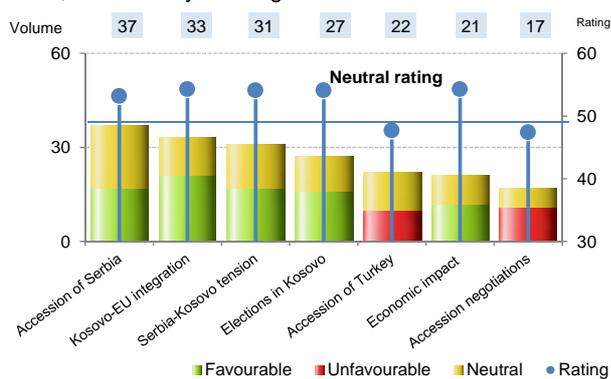
Bosnia and Herzegovina census

Bosnia and Herzegovina has now completed its first census since 1991. It is a crucial step for a country that saw thousands killed or missing and many people who moved to different towns due to the war. The census will sort the population by ethnic group, language and religion. However, some have doubts about irregularities in the filling out of census questionnaires to favour one ethnic group or the other, and one form out of five could be irregular (Corriere-della-Sera, IT, 1/11).

- Corriere-della-Sera, IT, 1/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131101/mi/item_174694984.pdf

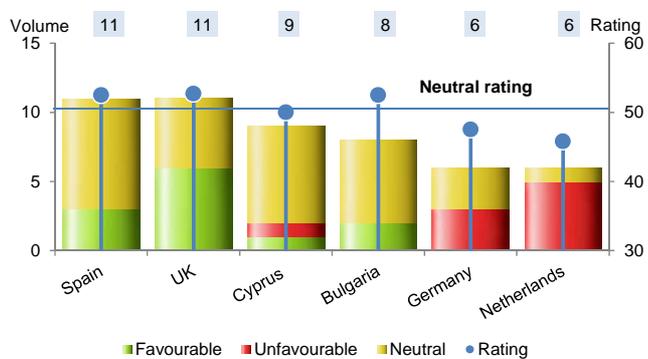
Charts

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU) | 16 |
| Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey) | 11 |
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC) | 8 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 8 |
| Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo) | 7 |
| Richard Howitt (MEP) | 5 |
| Alexander Downer (Special Adviser on Cyprus, UN) | 4 |

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