

Key Quotes

EU restarts talks with Turkey after three years. Linas Linkevičius, foreign minister of Lithuania which currently chairs the EU, announced that **"further progress in the accession process"** had been made. **"We also welcome important progress on reforms that have been recently made in Turkey, in particular positive developments in the area of democracy and rule of law,"** he said. Štefan Füle said the EU must remain **"the benchmark for reform in Turkey"**. **"We need more engagement, not less,"** he said. Turkey's Minister for EU Affairs, Egemen Bağış, quipped in reply: **"Stefan, I want to assure you, we are ready to not only get engaged but also get married, which metaphorically is full membership"** (BBC Online, UK, 5/11)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24825002>

Ban applauds municipal elections in Kosovo and condemns incidents in Mitrovica. The United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, praised **"the active participation of the Kosovo population, including the Kosovo Serbs"** and stressed that **"a key element in the elections is the implementation of the agreement reached on the 19 April between Belgrade and Pristina."** (Informativos Telecinco, ES, 6/11)

http://www.telecinco.es/informativos/internacional/Ban-municipales-Kosovo-registrados-Mitrovica_0_1696275006.html

Summary

Setback for Serbia's EU friends

The municipal elections in Kosovo on Sunday were meant to demonstrate Serbia's ability to meet Kosovo half-way and maintain peace in the region. Instead, the election turned into a brutal reminder of the tensions between the Kosovo Serbs in the north and the government in Pristina. Since the beginning of this year there have been ongoing negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina, aiming to integrate the Serb minority which in return will be given far-reaching rights. This process has now suffered a setback (Svenska Dagbladet, SE/4/11). The European Commission condemned the events in the North of Kosovo. The interruption of voting in areas with Serbian majorities is a blow to Belgrade which was appealing to compatriots to vote (TOK-FM, PL, 4/11). The question is whether Brussels will recognise the elections in northern Kosovo or not. If Serbia and Kosovo come to a halt at the beginning of their European path, the Balkans will remain a powder keg thanks to the Kosovar Gordian knot (Delo, SI, 5/11). The EU election observers are planning to announce their results on Tuesday. It remains open whether the election must be repeated in some electoral districts (RBB3, DE, 4/11). The Austrian daily Oberösterreichische Nachrichten (AT, 5/11) comments the Kosovo election has by no means put an end to the conflict between Serbians and Albanians that had been simmering for years, Serbian extremists have reopened the old rifts by means of terror and violence against voters. Not only the reconciliation process has failed; the very well-equipped soldiers of the NATO protection force KFOR and the EU's special police (EULEX) have shown a pathetic performance. They were unable to keep a few dozen radicals in check. And the representatives of the OSCE just took to their heels even though they were organising the election.

- Svenska Dagbladet, SE/4/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131105/mi/item_175059492.pdf
- TOK-FM, PL, 4/11, [link not available]
- Delo, SI, 5/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131105/mi/item_175065168.pdf
- RBB3, DE, 4/11, [link not available]
- Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, AT, 5/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131105/mi/item_175073075.pdf

The drawing of maritime borders continues to weigh down bilateral relations between Albania and Greece

"We are willing to find a shared solution in line with international norms and the domestic legislation of the two countries" Albanian president Bujar Nishani said after talks with his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias, who is on a visit to Tirana to revive relations between the two countries. A 2009 agreement between the two was rejected a year later by Albania's Constitutional Court, which ruled that it violated international treaties and the country's constitution. Athens has said that only a few aspects of the agreement require revision, while Albanian authorities hold that it is no longer of any worth at all. Papoulias said that integrated maritime policies would be a priority for the Greek and Italian EU presidencies in 2014, pledging to fully support Albania's accession process. There are also a number of other unresolved issues between the two nations. Nishani asked the Greek Parliament to revoke the War Law, which is still in force and continues to hold under preventative seizure Albanian assets. (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 4/11).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 4/11, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/albania/2013/11/04/Albania-Grecia-Paes-pesa-questione-confini-marittimi_9565744.html

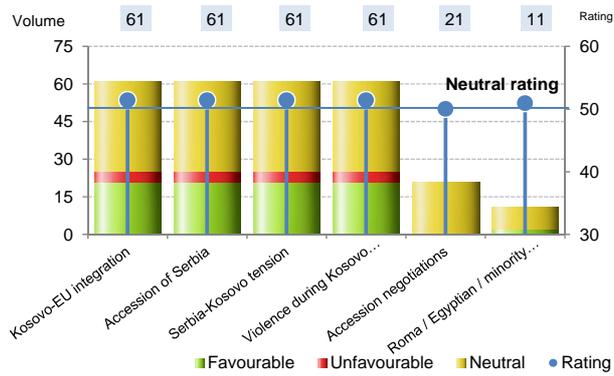
EU and Turkey to open new chapter in accession negotiations

The European Union and Turkey want to bring the stalled negotiations on EU accession of the country back on track (dradio.de, DE, 5/11)

- dradio.de, DE, 5/11, <http://www.dradio.de/nachrichten/201311050400/1>

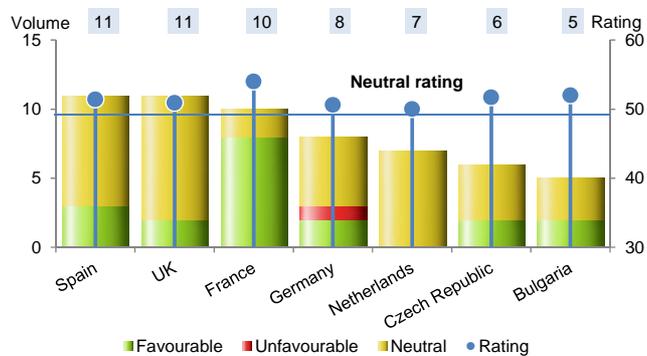
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Neutral %	65.7%

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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)	33
Maja Kocijancic (Spokesperson to HRVP Catherine Ashton)	18
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	11
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	8
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	5
Anders Fogh Rasmussen (Secretary General, NATO)	5

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