

## Key Quotes

Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle stated that it was a successful year for Albania: **"It has been a good year in delivering on free and fair elections and on constructive transfer of power. It was a good year, allowing us to highlight the progress of Albania in the recent progress report"** ([newsbeast.gr](http://newsbeast.gr), GR, 13/11).

<http://www.newsbeast.gr/world/arthro/607497/petuhimeni-hronia-to-2013-gia-tin-alvania/>

## Summary

### Reflections on enlargement

Replying to questions after a conference in Poland under the title "Turkey-EU Relations" Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan recalled that at his first term as Prime Minister, there were 15 EU member states and noted that 12 countries had been accepted as members all together then. He went on and alleged "However, they did not admit them because they were in harmony with the EU laws. They admitted them with a political decision. I will give you an example of this. One of them is south Cyprus. Pay attention! They do not admit it as south Cyprus. They admit it as Cyprus. There is no country named Cyprus. There is the local administration of south Cyprus. Because there is north Cyprus and a Green Line exists between them. Who is there at the Green Line? Security battalions established by the UN. Absolutely no country within the EU laws should experience security problems. That place has such an internal problem. How could you admit it? The decision is totally a political decision" (hri.org, CY, 11/11).

- hri.org, CY, 11/11, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-11-11.tcpr.html>

### Serbia lobbying for accession talks with the EU to start in December

European Union's strict conditions regarding the accession negotiations with Serbia are the consequence of several factors, such as Europe's harsh economic crisis, EU citizens' reservations about further enlargement and their experiences with regard to previous enlargements, Serbia's chief EU negotiator Tanja Mišćević said in an interview with Danas daily. Mišćević and Branko Ružić, Serbia's minister in charge for EU affairs, have visited London and Berlin in order to secure the best possible negotiating framework and the start of the talks at the end of December, said Mišćević. During the talks, she and Ružić did not request any easing of conditions for Serbia and she emphasised that conditions are not strict because of Serbia itself ([sofiaglobe.com](http://sofiaglobe.com), BG, 11/11). Mišćević confirmed that the Serbian objective was the EU intergovernmental conference of 22 December. "In that regard we are striving to achieve the administrative readiness level needed". However, the precise date of launching the talks depend on EU member states, Mrs. Mišćević recalled. When asked about the importance of the talks on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Priština as a basis for all the other negotiating chapters, Mišćević said that the two issues should be complementary ([balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), CY, 11/11). However the Serbian Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić said that negotiations on Serbia's accession to the European Union could be postponed if repeated conflicts and tensions in Kosovo occur and he called on Serbs to vote in repeat elections ([capital.gr](http://capital.gr), EL, 11/11).

- [sofiaglobe.com](http://sofiaglobe.com), BG, 11/11, <http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/11/11/serbia-lobbying-for-accession-talks-with-the-eu-to-start-in-december/>
- [balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), CY, 11/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/serbia-lobbying-accession-talks-eu-start-december/>
- [capital.gr](http://capital.gr), EL, 11/11, <http://www.capital.gr/News.asp?id=1905407>

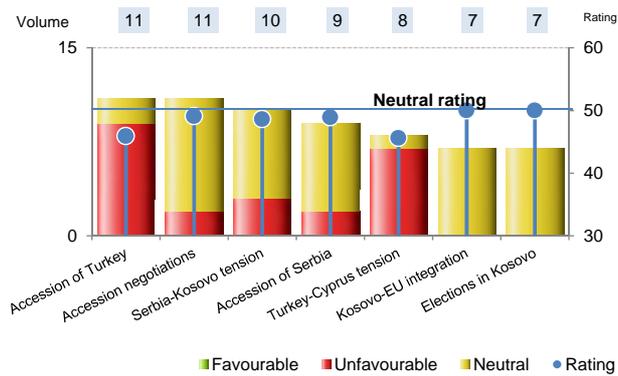
### Bulgarian relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

During his visit to the Bulgarian town of Sliven Bulgarian MEP Evgeni Kirilov commented that there was no progress in terms of the start of negotiations for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU accession. According to the MEP, this is explained by the country's attitude towards its neighbours Greece and Bulgaria. "We are witnessing only some simulation of good neighbourly relations" Evgeni Kirilov remarked and added that there was no progress in the search for solutions to the open issues with Greece ([focus-fen.net](http://focus-fen.net), BG, 11/11).

- [focus-fen.net](http://focus-fen.net), BG, 11/11, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n318628>

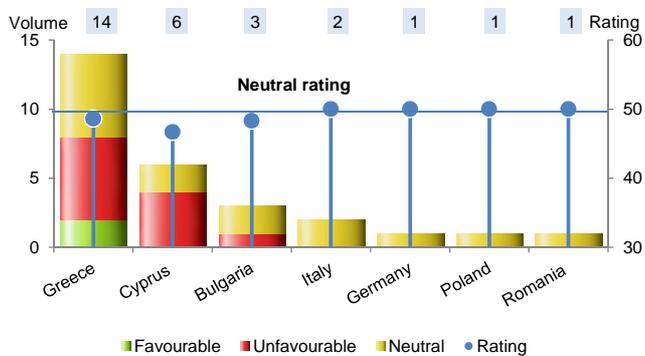
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**ELARG: Highlights**  
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Volume	28 items
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Favourable %	7.1%
Unfavourable %	39.3%
Neutral %	53.6%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	10
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	3
Tanja Mišćević (Chief EU Negotiator, Serbia)	2

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