

## Key Quotes

"It is the best solution for Kosovo and Serbia to become EU members, and also the best solution for the region," Kosovo PM Hashim Thaçi said. "We didn't fight against Serbs: we fought to remove Serbia and its oppression mechanisms in 1999," he added (The Guardian, UK, 14/11).

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/14/kosovo-pm-hashim-thaci-serbs-vote-elections>

## Summary

### Turkey/Cyprus tension

The European Commission said it would not comment on Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's statement that the government of Cyprus does not exist; Peter Stano, spokesperson for Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, said "The Commission does not take a position or comment on statements or their interpretation by the media. The commission avoids dealing with any threats, controversy or any action that can damage good neighbouring relations and peaceful solution to differences" (world.actualno.com, BG, 14/11). However MEP Georgios Koumoutsakos, the head of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee asked the European Commission to intervene, given that Mr Erdoğan's statements confirm in a most blatant manner that a candidate country does not acknowledge the existence of a sovereign EU Member State, the Commission is called on to take a stance. In addition, the Commission was asked to state in what manner it is going to actively contribute in the new effort for solving the Cypriot issue (Eleftherotypia, EL, 13/11).

- world.actualno.com, BG, 14/11, [http://world.actualno.com/EK-ne-iska-da-komentira-izkazvaneto-na-Erdogan-che-dyrjavata-Kipyr-ne-syshtestvuvva--news\\_5840.html](http://world.actualno.com/EK-ne-iska-da-komentira-izkazvaneto-na-Erdogan-che-dyrjavata-Kipyr-ne-syshtestvuvva--news_5840.html)
- Eleftherotypia, EL, 13/11, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131113/mi/item\\_176159178.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131113/mi/item_176159178.pdf)

### Albania, a green light from the EU aid program

The European Commission has given the green light to the 2013 national programme for Albania under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance. The 82 million euro programme will finance 19 programmes tailored to the specific needs of the country, supporting reforms and investments in key areas such as governance, justice and home affairs, transport, environment, employment and social inclusion, as well as agriculture and rural development. "Albania has shown its commitment to the integration process. Reforms, however, need to be sustained and I am confident that this year's programme will help Albania do that and bring positive change to the lives of its citizens" said the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle. As a strategic priority, the programme will help strengthen the independence and efficiency of the judiciary and improve the fight against corruption and organized crime. The money will also go to environmental protection, including the management of waste. Socio-economic development will be encouraged with dedicated measures to support SMEs and to improve the performance of the government's labour and social policies. The funding will further help the country prepare for the future national management of EU funds for agriculture and will finance small and medium scale investment measures to support farmers. Strategic infrastructure projects in rural areas will be implemented to rehabilitate the network of secondary roads and construct efficient water supply systems (ansamed.info, IT, 13/11).

- ansamed.info, IT, 13/11, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/albania/2013/11/13/Albania-EU-green-light-82-mln-programme\\_9613549.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/albania/2013/11/13/Albania-EU-green-light-82-mln-programme_9613549.html)

### Kosovo's Al Qaeda's new nest?

On Tuesday, Hungarian media stated that reports suggested that a group of ethnic Albanians arrested in Kosovo, suspected of planning terrorist attacks, had ties with Al Qaeda (metropol.hu, HU, 13/11).

- metropol.hu, HU, 13/11, <http://www.metropol.hu/nagyvilag/cikk/1110019-koszovo-az-al-kaida-uj-feszke>

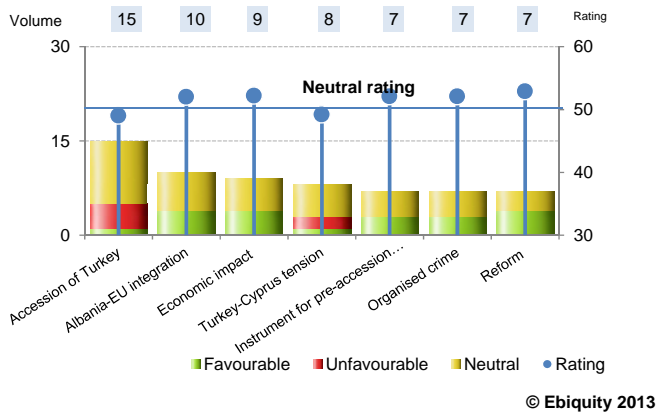
### US assistant secretary for Europe speaks on Balkans

Speaking of the BiH, US assistant secretary for Europe, Victoria Nuland said "It is well past time for leaders to demonstrate courage and vision, to move past the petty power interests and to build a modern, unified nation worthy of the talents and aspirations of all three communities," adding "If these leaders continue to block their country's path to the EU and to NATO membership, Bosnia's international partners, the US included, should seriously re-evaluate our approach" (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 14/11).

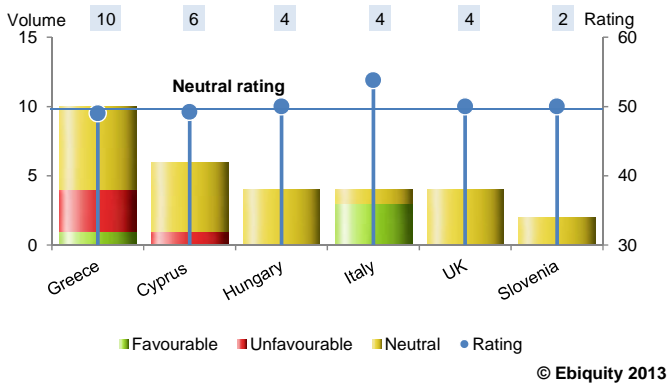
- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 14/11, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/us-urges-eastern-europe-overcome-old-hatreds-040337879.html#ixVLqmv>

## Charts

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**ELARG: Highlights**  
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Volume	34 items
Rating	50.1
Favourable %	14.7%
Unfavourable %	11.8%
Neutral %	73.5%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	9
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
Eleni Theocharous (MEP)	4
George Koumoutsakos (MEP)	3

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