

Key Quotes

Reuters writes that "**low turnout and complaints of coercion in a re-run election in northern Kosovo on Sunday underscored the challenge facing the European Union in implementing an accord designed to end the country's ethnic partition**" (Reuters, UK, 17/11; [direktbroker.de](http://www.direktbroker.de), DE, 18/11).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/17/uk-kosovo-election-serbs-idUKBRE9AG0B720131117>

<http://www.direktbroker.de/news/mitrovica-kosovo-reuters-low-turnout-and-32971370>

Summary

Balkan tycoon, once seen as untouchable, stands trial in Serbia

One of the Balkans' richest men went on trial on Thursday in a high-profile case that the Serbian government says marks a long-overdue drive to end more than two decades of lawlessness. Miroslav Mišković, who created an insurance, retail and real estate empire through the 1990s collapse of Yugoslavia and Serbia's emergence from isolation, faces up to 10 years in jail if found guilty on charges of fraud and tax evasion. By bringing him down, the Belgrade government hopes to show that it is serious about tackling the murky nexus of politics, business and organised crime that has flourished in Serbia over the past two decades. That fight is central to Serbia's campaign to join the European Union, which takes a step forward in January with the expected launch of accession talks. Mišković, a slight, bespectacled 68-year-old, is accused of siphoning off millions of euros from a privatised and now bankrupt road repair company between 2005 and 2010. His son, Marko, and nine others are also standing trial (uk.reuters.com, UK, 14/11).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 14/11, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/14/uk-serbia-trial-tycoon-idUKBRE9AD0T120131114?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Hungarian minority in Serbia

Two Hungarian members of the European Parliament, Kinga Gal and Gyorgy Schopflin, held talks with local ethnic Hungarian leaders in Subotica (Szabadka), N Serbia, on Thursday. The two MEPs, delegated by Hungary's ruling Fidesz party, were briefed on issues concerning the Hungarian minority, which may be raised in the course of preparations for Serbia's EU accession. The two European lawmakers are scheduled to attend the first meeting of the inter-parliamentary working groups preparing Serbia's EU entry in Belgrade on Friday. Gal said that a country's EU accession does not automatically resolve all minority issues, as demonstrated in Slovakia, but may give them into a new dimension. Schopflin said that preparations for EU entry, a process that lasted for eight years in Croatia, would enable Serbia to develop regulations that truly protect minorities. He said that relations between Hungary and Serbia had never been so good. Vojvodina, Serbia's northernmost region, is inhabited by 290,000 ethnic Hungarians (politics.hu, HU, 14/11).

- politics.hu, HU, 14/11, <http://www.politics.hu/20131114/hungarian-meps-discuss-minority-issues-in-with-local-leaders-in-serbia/>

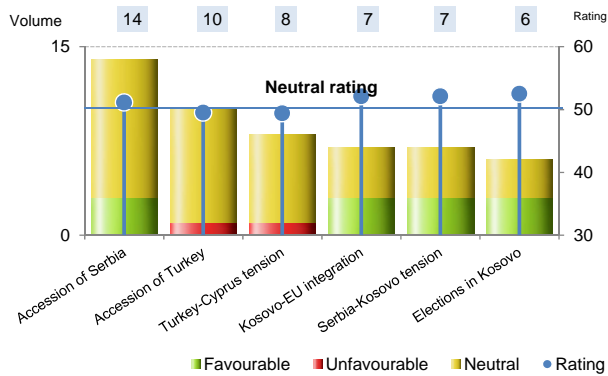
Name dispute

Greece is preparing to block the start of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU accession talks and yesterday's Greek-Macedonian debate at a sitting of the European People's Party (EPP) in Brussels proves it, Vecer daily writes. Vlatko Gjorcev, a representative of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) started a violent dispute with a representative of the Greek New Democracy party. Mr Gjorcev said he had informed the EPP member parties of the European Commission's new recommendation for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU accession and that he expected a new blockade on the part of Greece. The New Democracy representative responded violently to his statements (focus-fen.net, BG, 14/11). Angela Merkel has met with Matthew Nimetz, the United Nations Special Representative for the naming dispute between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, who coordinates talks within the United Nations. Evangelos Venizelos, Greek Foreign Minister, announced the news and said that Germany backed the United Nations Security Council supervised name talks and sent a message which Mr Nimetz should find helpful (focus-fen.net, BG, 15/11).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 14/11, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n318782>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 15/11, <http://focus-fen.net/?id=n318821>

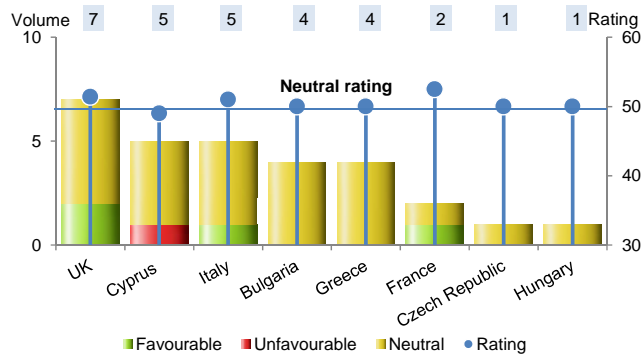
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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Volume	29 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	13.8%
Unfavourable %	3.4%
Neutral %	82.8%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Miroslav Mišković (Businessman, Serbia)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Dimitris Avramopoulos (Minister of National Defence, Greece)	3
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	2
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	2
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	2

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