

Key Quotes

Turkish Cypriot daily Kibris newspaper (17.11.13) reported that the Turkish EU Minister and Chief negotiator, Egemen Bağış has alleged that Turkey's determination on the issue of finding a solution to the Cyprus problem continues and added that **"Turkey will in no way, condition and manner abandon even a single hand span of Cyprus"**. Addressing a reception in Istanbul on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the unilateral declaration of independence (UDI), Bağış said: **"Let no one expect that we will abandon northern Cyprus for the EU and the EU for northern Cyprus, because we are determined to pursue until the end our just cause on both issues"** (hri.org, CY, 18/11).

<http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-11-18.tcpr.html>

Summary

Serbia steps closer to EU after peaceful elections in Kosovo

The framework for Serbia-EU accession negotiations would be *"definitely adopted"* within a month and after that the talks would start, European Union enlargement commissioner Štefan Füle said in an interview for Belgrade's daily "Vecernje novosti". When asked whether the Kosovo issue would be the priority in accession negotiations, Füle emphasized that the normalization of the relations between Belgrade and Priština would be closely tied to Serbian membership talks *"in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council which were adopted in June"*. The full implementation of the Brussels agreement between Belgrade and Priština, which had been initialled in April, was imposed as the precondition for the accession talks. Responding to a journalist's remark asking how it was possible for the EU to start a Stabilization and Association (SAA) process with Priština, given the fact that Kosovo was not internationally recognized as a state, Füle said *"opportunities for the EU to conclude international agreements have not been limited to internationally recognized states"*. According to Füle, launching an SAA process with Priština did not jeopardize the EU's neutral status with regard to Kosovo (balkaneu.com, EL, 18/11).

- balkaneu.com, EL, 18/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/serbia-eu-accession-talks-depend-kosovo-fule/>

Ashton welcomes re-run of elections in Kosovo

Votes are being counted in a Serb-dominated part of Kosovo after a previous vote was annulled due to violence. There were no incidents during the rerun of the vote and Kosovo authorities said voter turnout was over 22 percent. Preliminary results are expected late on November 19. Authorities ramped up security ahead of the elections to deter attempts to harass voters or invalidate ballots. Increased numbers of Kosovar police and security officers from the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), along with NATO-led peacekeepers in Kosovo (KFOR), were deployed at the polling stations (rferl.org, CZ, 18/11). The president of the electoral commission Valdete Daka said that the votes would not be counted in Mitrovica but at the vote counting centre Kosovo Polje, in line with the decision taken by the electoral commission in agreement with the OSCE, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (ansamed.info, IT, 18/11).

- rferl.org, CZ, 18/11, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-mirtovica-votes-counted/25171407.html>
- ansamed.info, IT, 18/11, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/11/18/Kosovo-municipal-vote-22-38-turnout-3-Mitrovica-polls_9637533.html

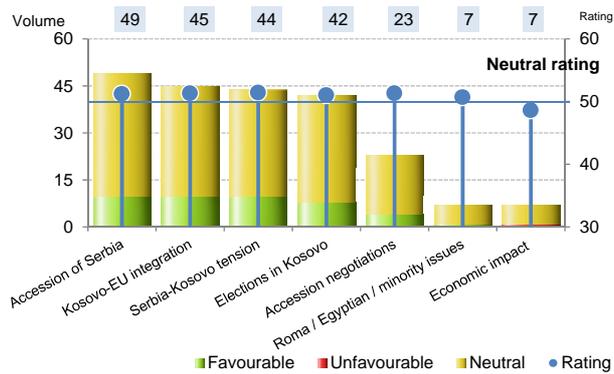
Turkey and the EU

In an interview with the Austrian daily Presse (AT, 18/11), Yiğit Bulut, the advisor to the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, calls on the EU to reconsider its positions towards Turkey for its own good. "Europe needs Turkey's resources to regain power," says Mr Bulut. Europe must not look at Turkey emotionally but in a calculating way, he goes on to say adding that it will not take much more for "Turkey to turn away from the EU" and commenting that *"Germany and the EU need to understand that the old Turkey, which can be controlled and manipulated has vanished"*. In the meantime ANT-1-TV-Cyprus, (CY, 16/11) reported that Turkey is taking provocative action, with its intention of signing an illegal immigrant readmission agreement with all EU member states except for Cyprus. The spokesman for Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström avoided commenting on the matter and said that the Commission is confident that in the spirit of good will Turkey will fulfil the agreement with all member states.

- Presse, AT, 18/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131118/mi/item_176657518.pdf
- ANT-1-TV-Cyprus, CY, 16/11, [link not available]

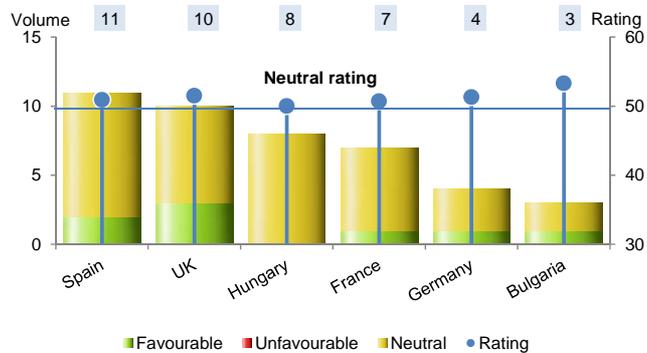
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Volume	54 items
Rating	51.0
Favourable %	20.3%
Unfavourable %	1.9%
Neutral %	77.8%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	9
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	2
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	1
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	1
Enver Hoxhaj (Foreign Minister, Kosovo)	1
Bernd Borchardt (Head of EULEX, Kosovo)	1
Ulrike Lunacek (MEP)	1
Yiğit Bulut (Senior advisor to Prime Minister, Turkey)	1

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