



Key Quotes

The European Union may not be able to accept Turkey as a member, German parties negotiating a coalition government have said, while making clear the EU's "*privileged relationship*" with Ankara should be developed further. In a paper on foreign policy, Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) describe EU membership talks with Turkey as "*open-ended*". "*If the EU is not in a position to accept (new members) or if Turkey is not able to fully meet the criteria for membership, Turkey should be bound closer to European structures, allowing it to further develop the privileged relationship it enjoys with the EU and Germany,*" reads the paper, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters (Reuters, UK, 19/11).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/19/uk-germany-coalition-turkey-idUKBRE9AI0ME20131119?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

Summary

Elections in Kosovo: Serbia, Kosovo and the EU are pleased with the turnout

The runoff in the municipal elections in the three electoral centres in Northern Kosovska Mitrovica, saw a very limited the turn-out, since only the 23% of the registered voters appeared. The European Commission Vice-President and EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton expressed her satisfaction over the successful runoff, highlighting that there was a huge step in the course of Serbia and Kosovo towards the EU. Ms Ashton is expected to brief the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs over the municipal elections in Kosovo, before the second round of the municipal elections, scheduled for 3 December (Rizospastis, EL, 19/11). "*This is an important milestone for Serbia and Kosovo on the way towards the European Union*" said the High Representative (Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 19/11).

- Rizospastis, EL, 19/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131119/mi/item_176813177.pdf
- Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 19/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131119/mi/item_176811742.pdf

Turkey/Cyprus tension

Peter Stano, spokesperson for Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle, responding to a question by KIBRIS, rejected reports regarding a proposal package for the return of the city of Varosha/Maras. In his written answer, Mr Stano said he could not confirm reports suggesting that Mr Füle and Commission President José Manuel Barroso support the proposal for the opening of the Ercan/Thimbou airport in return for Varosha/Maras. Mr Stano said that the Commission invites parties to prepare their communities for compromises that a solution on the Cyprus problem will require. The spokesperson also emphasised the urgency of a comprehensive solution in Cyprus (Kibris, CY, 19/11).

- Kibris, CY, 19/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131119/mi/item_176811841.pdf

Albanian Quotas in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Foreign Ministry of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not yet met the quota for the recruitment of Albanians. According to the Constitution and obligations of the Ohrid Agreement, over 25% of administration and leading positions in the Ministry should be occupied by Albanians, but so far, this figure has not been met. "*There have been constant falls and with the arrival of Nikola Popovski, only one Albanian has been employed, alongside 50 Macedonians*", said a Foreign Ministry employee. Representation is even worse in diplomatic missions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that it recruits people based on qualities, diplomatic abilities and professionalism regardless of ethnicity, race or religion. A bill on Foreign Affairs obliges the Ministry to respect the principle of fair and adequate representation (balkan.eu.com, EL, 19/11).

- balkan.eu.com, EL, 19/11, <http://www.balkan.eu.com/albanians-adequately-represented-foreign-ministry-fyr-macedonia/>

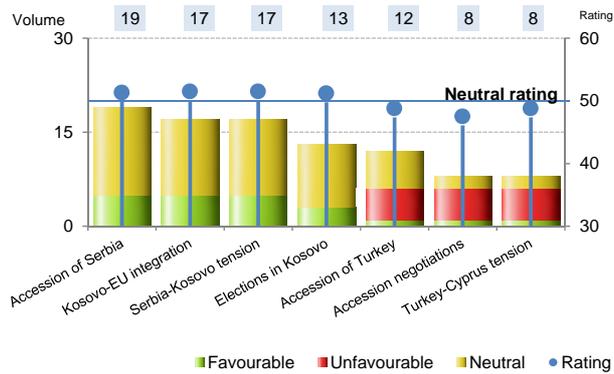
Slovenia Advocates Serbia-Kosovo Model of Problem Resolution for Bosnia

Slovenian Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec said that the EU is expected to step up activities in tackling the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the New Year. He highlighted that his colleague from Bosnia and Herzegovina Zlatko Lagumdžija had recently expressed concern that there would be little progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina without EU assistance. Slovenia's foreign minister also warned that cuts in pre-accession funds for Bosnia and Herzegovina could affect the climate in the country ahead of the 2014 general election, which could be abused by some of the political players. There needs to be an understanding in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the importance that the EU plays in the stability and prosperity of the country and an understanding on what would be the consequences of Bosnia and Herzegovina failing to keep pace with other countries aspiring to join the bloc, added Erjavec (sloveniatimes.com, SI, 19/11).

- sloveniatimes.com, SI, 19/11, <http://www.sloveniatimes.com/slovenia-advocates-serbia-kosovo-model-of-problem-resolution-for-bosnia>

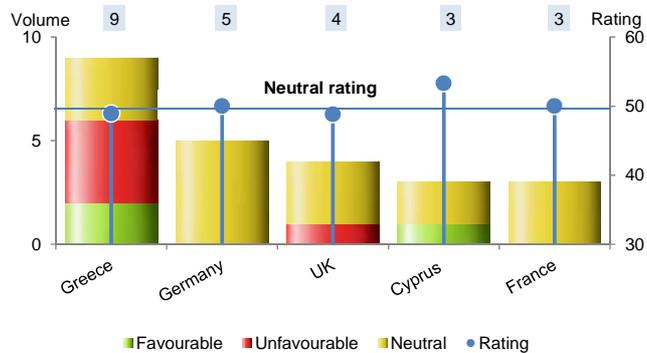
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	34 items
Rating	50.3
Favourable %	17.6%
Unfavourable %	14.7%
Neutral %	67.7%

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

© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Yiğit Bulut (Senior advisor to Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	3
Karl Erjavec (Foreign Minister, Slovenia)	3
François Hollande (President, France)	2
Mehmet Zafer Çağlayan (Economy Minister, Turkey)	2

© Ebiquity 2013

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.