



Key Quotes

"Bulgaria will support Albania in its candidacy for the European Union," said Bulgarian Foreign Minister Kristian Vigenin. Vigenin met with Albanian Ambassador to Sofia, Petrit Karabina, who acquainted him with the most recent efforts of the Albanian government for reforms, which would bring the country closer to the EU (Novinite, BG, 20/11).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/155714/FM%3A+Bulgaria+Will+Support+Albania%E2%80%99s+EU+Candidacy>

Summary

German parties say EU may not be able to let Turkey join

Germany's political parties negotiating a coalition government announced on Tuesday that the European Union may not be able to accept Turkey as a member while making clear the EU's "privileged relationship" with Ankara should be developed further. Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU), have long been wary about allowing a largely Muslim country of 76 million people into the EU. But the SPD has supported the idea; talks on Turkey's joining began under Merkel's SPD predecessor, Gerhard Schroeder (balkaneu.com, EL, 19/11).

- balkaneu.com, EL, 19/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/berlin-calls-turkeys-eu-membership-question/>

Turkish Constitution

Turkey's parliament is deadlocked over efforts to draw up a new constitution aimed at enshrining democratic values and replace a military-drafted charter, a ruling party law-maker said. A special cross-party parliamentary commission has been set up to write a replacement for the charter introduced by the military junta after a 1980 coup is set to be formally dissolved after failing to make any significant progress. "The parliamentary commission tasked with writing a new constitution could not produce any article over the last four months," Ahmet Iyimaya of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) told AFP. He said it was unlikely a new constitution - a key pledge of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's latest term in office - would be ready before a general election in 2015. One of the major disputes over the constitution lies with plans by Erdoğan's AKP to introduce an executive presidential system in the predominantly Muslim but staunchly secular state. Observers say Erdoğan - who has been prime minister for 11 years - is hoping to change the constitution to give the president US-style executive powers before running for the post himself next year. The current presidency, held by Abdullah Gül since 2007, is largely a symbolic post (focus-fen.net, BG, 20/11).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 20/11, <http://focus-fen.net/?id=n319055>

Preventing violence against women in Turkey

The Turkish government has cooperated with the EU to launch a project called the "Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women" with the aim of training rural security forces on the issue. The project will be rolled out by Turkey's Ministry of Family and Social Policies and Gendarmerie General Command in coordination with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of European Union. The program is co-financed by European Union and Turkey's EU Ministry with a total budget of 2.9 million euros. In Turkey every two out of five women are exposed to violence (ansamed.info, IT, 20/11).

- ansamed.info, IT, 20/11, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2013/11/20/Turkey-Ankara-tackle-violence-against-women_9650329.htm

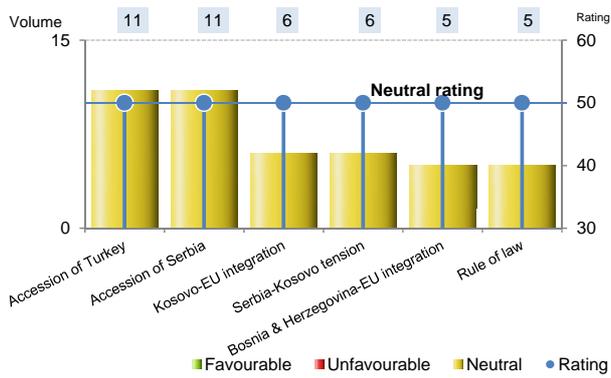
Facebook recognises Kosovo as independent state

The world's largest social network site Facebook has listed Kosovo as a country more than five years after the breakaway territory proclaimed independence from Serbia. "Facebook recognises Kosovo as a state," the Minister for EU Integration Vlora Çitaku tweeted. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said in a statement he "was informed by senior Facebook executives... about including Kosovo in the global social network". Kosovo's influential Koha.net news portal said "Although this is not a recognition by a state, it has a tremendous value, because there are over one billion people in the world who use Facebook". Until now people from Kosovo who wanted to open a Facebook account had to register as Serbian citizens (actu.voila.fr, FR, 19/11).

- actu.voila.fr, FR, 19/11, http://actu.voila.fr/actualites/high-tech/2013/11/19/facebook-reconnait-le-kosovo-independant-les-kosovars-jubilent_16261523.htm

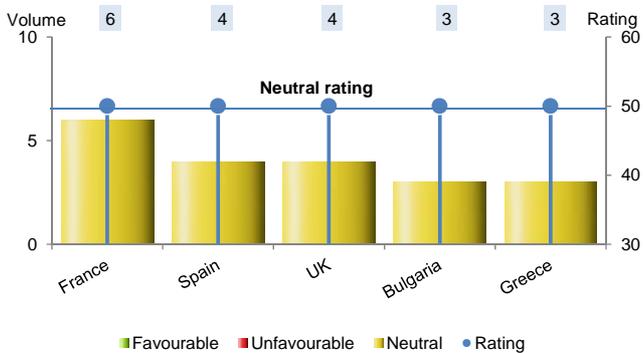
Charts

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	28 items
Rating	50.0
Favourable %	0%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	100%

© Ebiquity 2013

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	6
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	5
Vlora Çitaku (Minister for EU Integration, Kosovo)	5
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4
Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé (former Foreign Minister, Spain)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime 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.