

## Key Quotes

In a call with José Manuel Barroso, Cameron registered his unhappiness about the comments of László Andor, the EU employment commissioner ... Cameron raised the complaint as he arrived in Vilnius, Lithuania, to attend the Eastern Partnership Summit, where he will highlight concerns about free movement. At the meeting, the prime minister will say: **"I support association agreements. I support enlargement. But we can't do that without addressing abuse of free movement and how it works in future."** (The Guardian, UK, 29/11) <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/nov/29/david-cameron-complains-about-nasty-jibe>

## Summary

### New rules for migrants

David Cameron is travelling to eastern Europe to urge EU leaders to put an end to the era of "vast migrations" from poor countries to the west. Ministers admit that Mr Cameron has yet to win public backing from leaders elsewhere in the EU for such a fundamental change, which he hopes to negotiate before his proposed in/out referendum in 2017. The announcement by Berlin of benefit curbs on migrant workers and by Paris of restrictions on temporary cross-border workers has encouraged the view in Downing St that Mr Cameron is working with the grain of European opinion. However, in calling this week for a tightening of migration rules, David Cameron also had his eye on a potential new wave of EU entrants from eastern Europe and the Balkans. Croatia, with a population of 4.3m, joined the bloc in July, with work restrictions on its citizens set to expire in 2020. A further five countries – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Iceland - are either in negotiations over membership or waiting for them to start. These countries have a combined population of 84m, of which 74m are from Turkey. Another three countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo - with a combined population of nearly 9m have been promised the prospect of joining when they are ready. (Financial-Times, UK, 28/11). *"The PM's plan to limit benefits goes some way to discourage new EU migrants, but Britain has a strong case to push for wider controls"*, argues Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University. He went on to say *"Other countries in the union should not be required to house people failed by their own governments"* (Daily Telegraph, UK, 28/11).

The 14th meeting of the Committee of the Regions' (CoR) Working Group on Western Balkans focussed on the political and social reforms taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) as a potential candidate country to the EU, as well as the use of EU Pre-accession funds at the country's local and regional level. The debate was particularly timely given last month's adoption of the European Commission's 2013 Progress Report on Bosnia Herzegovina, which assessed the country's prospects of joining the European Union as being "at a standstill". Opening the meeting, the chair of the Working Group, Mia De Vits (BE/PES), Member of the Flemish Parliament, stressed that **"The CoR has always given its full support to the enlargement process. This has been reflected not only in its opinions but also in its decisions to support the stabilisation and association process in potential candidate countries by setting up thematic working groups such as this one."** (wiredgov.uk, 29/11)

<http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/0/4C221328B858354480257C31005907B2?OpenDocument>

- Financial-Times, UK, 28/11, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131128/mi/item\\_177976449.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131128/mi/item_177976449.pdf)
- Daily Telegraph, UK, 28/11, [link not available]
- Wired-gov.co.uk, UK 29/11 [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131128/mi/item\\_177976449.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131128/mi/item_177976449.pdf)<http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/0/4C221328B858354480257C31005907B2?OpenDocument>

### Turkey and the EU

Turks are in the grip of admiration or dismay at one man: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister, who appears to have morphed from courageous reformer to irritable authoritarian. The EU bears a big share of the blame for the current state of affairs in Turkey. Although acceptance of Ankara as a full candidate for membership in 1999 probably spared Turkey a coup when the AKP came to power in 2002, the EU smashed the fragile compass that would have kept Turkey on a steadier course. Declarations by then French President Nicolas Sarkozy that Muslim Turkey could never join the union undermined the soft power of EU accession talks. *"Supporters of the EU process felt and feel very alone,"* says businesswoman Umit Boyner, (ft.com, UK, 27/11).

- ft.com, UK, 27/11, [link not available]

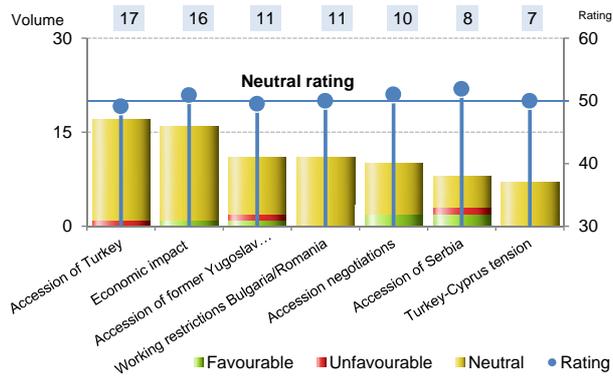
### European funds for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Deputy PM of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in charge of European affairs Fatmir Besimi and Alexandra Cas Granje - Director of the European Commission's Enlargement Directorate General - signed financing agreements on Tuesday of 30m euros between the government and the EC. The funds will support the resumption of reform and eight projects for cross-border cooperation between the country and Greece (balkans.com, GR, 27/11).

- balkans.com, GR, 27/11, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=185450>

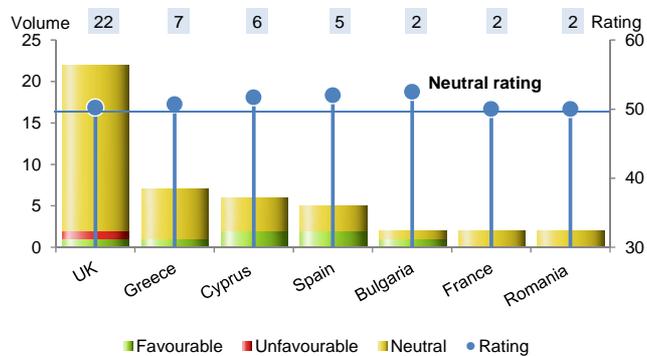
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Neutral %	83.3%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	25
László Andor (Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EC)	10
Viviane Reding (Justice Commissioner, EC)	9
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	7
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	7
Aleksandr Chepurin (Russian Ambassador to Serbia)	6

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