



## Key Quotes

EU exports its crisis to the Balkans. Gerald Knaus, chairman of the think tank "European Stability Initiative" suggests that **"the EU could define - in a much clearer way than today - the criteria of what constitutes a good administration, regulating the economy according to European standards"**. He wants **"the annual progress reports for all EU accession candidates to be much more concrete and analytical in that field"** (Deutsche Welle, DE, 2/12)

<http://www.dw.de/eu-exports-its-crisis-to-the-balkans/a-17266626>

Bulgaria will actively support Kosovo in its preparation for EU membership. **"We supported the historic agreement reached between Kosovo and Serbia, which is an important step for both countries towards their EU membership. With the Memorandum signed today, Bulgaria will have the opportunity to actively support Kosovo in its preparation for EU membership, sharing our own experience,"** said Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Kristian Vigenin (mfa.bg, BG, 2/12)

<http://www.mfa.bg/en/events/6/1/1192/index.html>

## Summary

### Kosovo elections

Kosovo, which became independent in 2008, has met the challenge of holding calm municipal elections to normalise relations with Serbia and for the two countries to move towards a future in the European Union (noticias.terra.es, ES, 1/12). Turnout at the municipal elections across 25 cities in Kosovo, seven of which have a Serbian-majority population, was 41.74%, according to provisional data released on Sunday night by the electoral commission. Voting took place without significant incidents being reported, thanks to massive local police deployment, with the support of personnel from the Eulex European mission and Kfor, the NATO military force. All eyes are on the new mayors of the capital Pristina, Prizren (South) and the Serbian sector of Kosovska Mitrovica (North). With local elections, provided for in April's agreement between Belgrade and Pristina, the new autonomous communities for Kosovo's Serbians will be created, a key passage in the normalisation of relations between Serbians and Kosovar Albanians. These communities, under the accord, will replace the parallel structures of the Serbian government, maintained and funded by Belgrade in northern Kosovo but considered illegal by Pristina (ansamed.info, IT, 2/12).

· noticias.terra.es, ES, 1/12, [link not available]

· ansamed.info, IT, 2/12, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/12/02/Kosovo-41-7-turnout-municipal-ballot\\_9712466.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/12/02/Kosovo-41-7-turnout-municipal-ballot_9712466.html)

### Turkey and the EU

In an interview for the weekly supplement of Delo (SI, 30/11), Nilgun Arisan Eralp, head of the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, outlined the mentality of the ruling Turkish party, which she believes to be incompatible with EU democracy. She expressed doubts about the honest intentions of the Turkish government regarding EU approximation, but added that hypocrisy can be found on both sides. She says that the Turkish frustration stems from its belief that no matter how hard they try, they will never become EU members. She added that **"for Erdogan, democracy is like a tram – you can get off anytime you like"**. Meanwhile it was reported that the European Parliament President, Martin Schultz had pointed out that **"the current context between the EU and Turkey creates a positive momentum for negotiation"**. He went on to say that in the past, **"the Cyprus issue has been a stumbling block in negotiations with Turkey"** but he says that **"treating the two issues separately can be beneficial to finding solutions in both areas"** (financialmirror.com, CY, 2/12).

· Delo, SI, 30/11, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131130/mi/item\\_178440212.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131130/mi/item_178440212.pdf)

· financialmirror.com, CY, 2/12, <http://www.financialmirror.com/news-details.php?nid=31616>

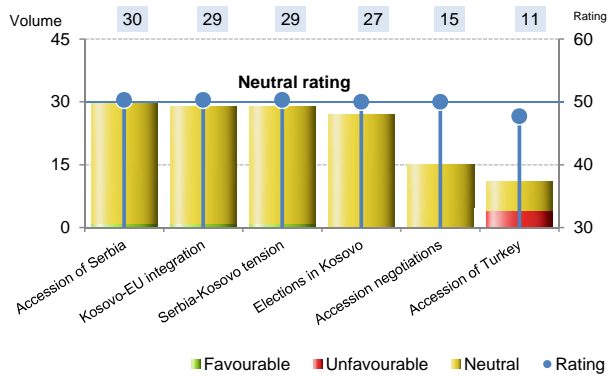
### Commissioner Füle did not approve the Cypriot proposal for the return of Famagusta to Turkey

In an extremely negative article, Ethnos newspaper reported that Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle did not approve Cypriot President, Nicos Anastasiades' proposal regarding the return of Ammochostos (Famagusta) to the Turkish side of the country. The newspaper pointed out that Mr Füle is known for his unfriendly stance towards Cyprus, adding that **"he is lobbying for the 23rd Chapter of the entry negotiations with Turkey to re-begin, despite the fact that the Cypriot President has connected the freezing of this chapter with the return of Ammochostos"** (Ethnos, GR, 2/12).

· Ethnos, GR, 2/12, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131202/mi/item\\_178444677.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131202/mi/item_178444677.pdf)

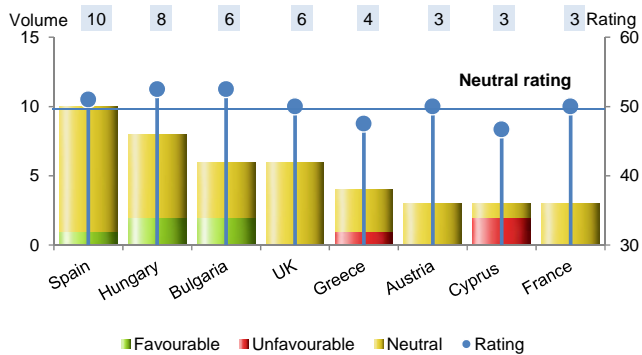
## Charts

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Volume	49 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	10.2%
Unfavourable %	8.2%
Neutral %	81.6%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	3
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	2
László Andor (Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EC)	2
Victor Orbán (Prime Minister, Hungary)	2

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