

Key Quotes

With a new European Parliament in 2014, the time will also be ripe for Brussels to discuss what the future of the European Union will be and to decide on **"the conditions for further enlargement"**. This was the point underscored by EU enlargement commissioner Štefan Füle during a debate on the Western Balkans on Tuesday in Brussels. Füle said that guidelines are required, as the enlargement process has become ever **"more political"**, and it is not simply a case of candidate countries meeting the required criteria, and that thus the **"time has come to act at the political level"** (ansa.it, IT, 3/12).

http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/12/03/Ue-Fule-ora-definire-condizioni-nuovo-allargamento_9719327.html

Summary

Kosovo nationalists win the city of Kosovska Mitrovica

Hardline nationalists took top posts in Kosovo's capital as well as the main Serb-populated town in the breakaway territory in local elections, preliminary results showed on Monday. The electoral commission said the capital Pristina was won by Shpend Ahmeti of the nationalist Self Determination movement, which opposes the presence of the European Union and NATO in Kosovo as well as any talks with Serbia. Although the ruling Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi lost power in three towns, it will still control most of the municipalities -- ten out of 29 (eubusiness.com, UK, 2/11). In the Serb-dominated part of the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica, Krstimir Pantić from the Civic Initiative Srpska (CIS) claimed victory with a 10 percent lead over his closest rival. Pantić said the CIS wants "to preserve Kosovo in Serbia". According to preliminary results, the CIS won in most Serb-majority municipalities (rferl.org, CZ, 2/11).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 2/11, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/kosovo-serbia-vote.rw5/>
- rferl.org, CZ, 2/11, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-election-runoffs-surprises/25187158.html>

Bulgarian Support for Kosovo

The governments of Bulgaria and Kosovo signed a Memorandum for Cooperation in the Field of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration on Monday. With the signing of the memorandum Bulgaria will have the opportunity to support Kosovo's preparation for EU membership more actively by sharing its experience, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, Mr Vigenin said. In his words Bulgaria supports the liberalisation of the visa regime between Kosovo and the EU (Duma-Daily, BG, 3/12). Kosovo has not yet mustered the minimum number of recognitions as an independent state required for membership of the UN, and the European Union remains "status-neutral" on the country because five EU states do not recognise Kosovo (sofiaglobe.com, BG, 3/12).

- Duma-Daily, BG, 3/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131203/mi/item_178577837.pdf
- sofiaglobe.com, BG, 3/12, <http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/12/03/kosovo-can-count-on-bulgarias-support-to-join-un/>

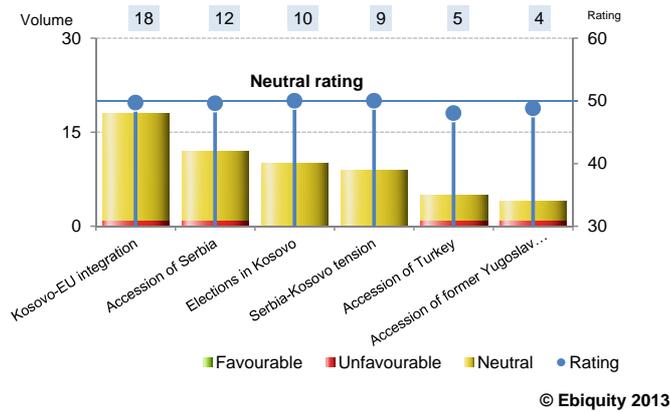
Name dispute

Prospects for a settlement of the name dispute are the worst in 18 months according to Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In an interview with the Financial Times, Mr Gruevski said the two governments had made some progress towards a compromise when the socialist George Papandreou was Prime Minister in Athens from 2009 to 2011, but this progress had gone into reverse after Antonis Samaras, a conservative, took over. "It's much worse than before," Mr Gruevski said adding "the situation could be unblocked if Greece were to come under pressure from countries like the US, Germany and France. But if not, then it won't be". Mr Gruevski placed the blame squarely on Mr Samaras, accusing him of moving to "one of the most radical positions that Greece has adopted in the history of the problem". The latest proposals for solving the name dispute were floated in April by Matthew Nimetz, who serves as UN special representative on the issue. He suggested that the state should go by the name of the Upper Republic of Macedonia in multinational settings, but that countries could use the term Republic of Macedonia in bilateral relations with Skopje if they so chose. These proposals were turned down by Greece, which made clear it wanted one name for all purposes and floated the idea of the Republic of Upper Macedonia. These suggestions have proved unacceptable to Mr Gruevski and his government (ft.com, UK, 3/12).

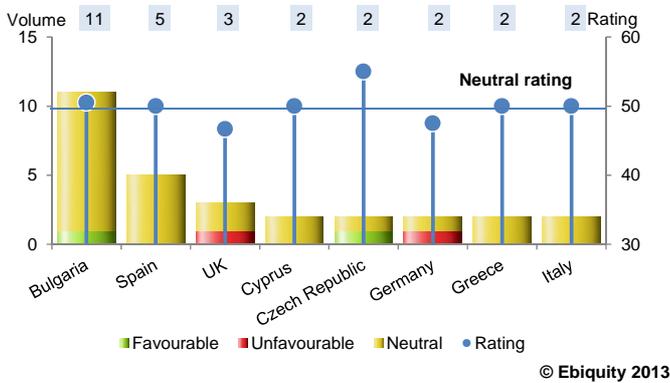
- ft.com, UK, 3/12, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/be086f5a-5bf7-11e3-931e-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2mPHNAUN8>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	31 items
Rating	50.0
Favourable %	6.5%
Unfavourable %	6.5%
Neutral %	87.0%

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

© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Enver Hoxhaj (Foreign Minister, Kosovo)	8
Kristian Vigenin (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	6
Martin Schultz (President, European Parliament)	2
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.