

Key Quotes

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on the Balkans' place in the EU. ***"It is time someone in the EU clearly voiced the opinion — and Hungary is happy to do so — that the Balkans are not a problem for the EU but an opportunity"*** (Propeller.hu, HU, 5/12).

<http://propeller.hu/itthon/2833612-orban-szkopjeban-balkan-nem-problema>

Summary

Economic impact of the free movement of persons

The UK Home Secretary is to challenge her European counterparts to change the way free movement rules work across the region at a meeting in Brussels. Theresa May will tell justice and home affairs ministers of fellow European Union member states that the UK is frustrated by the European Commission's failure to tackle free movement abuse. Ahead of the meeting, Mrs May discussed measures to tackle this abuse such as applying a cap on numbers if European immigration reaches certain thresholds. Her comments come after David Cameron unveiled measures to deter immigrants from within the EU, but also suggested in the future labour movement from new member states should be limited until they hit a certain level of GDP per head. Ahead of the meeting, Mrs May said *"I am attending a meeting of the Council of Ministers. At that meeting I will make clear that I believe we need to change the way free movement rules work. First, for future accession treaties, we must be able to slow full access to each other's labour markets until we can be sure it will not lead to mass migration. This could, for example, be achieved by requiring new member states to reach a certain level of income or economic output per head before full free movement is allowed. Second, looking ahead, we must seize the opportunity presented by the Prime Minister's plan to reform the EU and address the problems caused by free movement"* (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 5/12).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 5/12, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/may-eu-free-movement-meeting-001600172.html>

Turkey and the EU reach an agreement on readmission of illegal immigrants

The European Union will gradually abolish the obligation for Turkish citizens to request a visa for travel to the EU. In exchange Turkey will take back illegal migrants who enter the European Union from Turkish territory. The EU and Turkey will sign an agreement to this effect on the 16th of December (Volkskrant, NL, 5/12). Christiane Schlötzer, writing in the *Suddeutsche-Zeitung* (DE, 5/11) comments that the price for Turkey is high. The condition for the country is to hold back as many refugees as possible from entering the EU. The agreement was announced in Brussels following a meeting between Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle, and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu (Politis-Cyprus, CY, 5/12).

- Volkskrant, NL, 5/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131205/mi/item_178841722.pdf
- *Suddeutsche-Zeitung*, DE, 5/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131205/mi/item_178839859.pdf
- Politis-Cyprus, CY, 5/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131205/mi/item_178853065.pdf

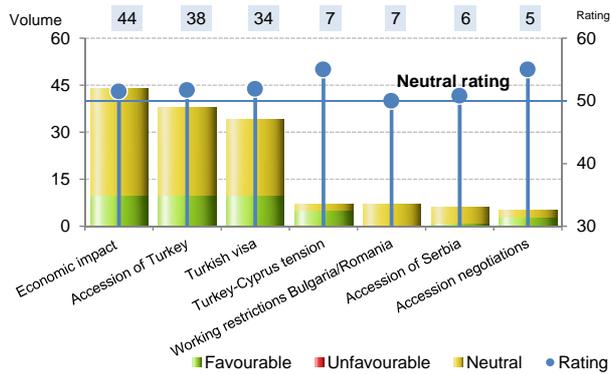
Serbia's EU negotiations

Otilia Dhand, vice president of Teneo Intelligence, points out that it took Croatia eight years from the start of accession to membership in July this year, and Serbia has a whole host of obstacles that Croatia didn't face, principal among these is Kosovo, Serbia's erstwhile province that is now an ethnic-Albanian independent state. A draft framework for the country's EU negotiations, which forms the basis for the start of talks, has already been prepared but is yet to be published. Analysts say all eyes will focus on chapter 35 of the talks, which deals with relations with Kosovo. *"Some EU representatives suggested that this chapter should be the first to be opened in the forthcoming talks, along with chapters 23 (Judiciary, Fundamental Freedoms and Justice) and 24 (Freedom and Security),"* says Dhand (bne.eu, DE, 5/12).

- bne.eu, DE, 5/12, http://www.bne.eu/storyf5584/EU_set_to_agree_accession_talks_date_with_Serbia

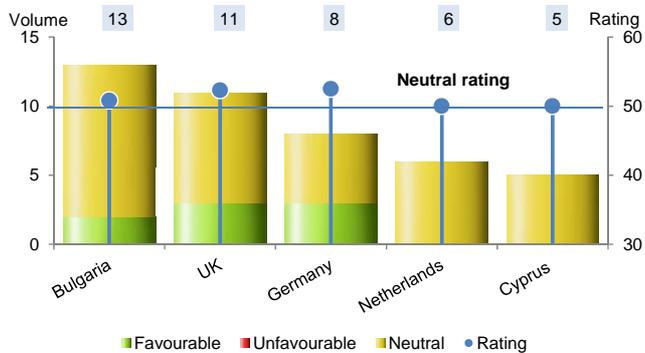
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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Volume	52 items
Rating	51.3
Favourable %	21.2%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	78.8%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	26
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	24
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	15
Theresa May (Home Secretary, UK)	7
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	7
Kristian Vigenin (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	6
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

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