



Key Quotes

A meeting of the EU-Turkey joint commission on Friday degenerated into a heated exchange between Turkish European Affairs Minister Egemen Bağış and Cypriot MEP Takis Hadjigeorgiou. Bağış likened the Cypriot government to "**a stubborn mule**", to which Hadjigeorgiou responded by calling the Turkish minister "**a small-time shopkeeper, loafing around because he has no clients**". "**The seller with no buyers can only peddle words**", added the MEP (Ansamed.info, IT, 6/12).

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2013/12/06/EU-Turkey-bagarre-Turkish-minister-Cypriot-MP_9738008.html

Summary

Generous benefits and economic impact of enlargement

Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding vowed to block Britain's attempts to end benefit tourism. In a stinging response, Mrs Reding said that only Britain was to blame for any abuse of its welfare system by migrants. She hit back at the UK saying "*It seems that some national systems are too generous. Don't blame the Commission or EU rules for national choices and national regulatory systems. If member states want to restrict the availability of social benefits to EU citizens they can do two things. First, change their national systems to make them less generous. 'Second, apply the existing EU rules which provide safeguards to counter abuse, fraud and error: for example possible expulsion orders and re-entry bans in case of abuses'*". Mrs Reding ruled out any change to the EU free movement rules - despite the pressure on UK ministers to make changes ahead of the lifting of controls on Romanians and Bulgarians next month. '*Our EU rules are good and they are here to stay. Member states need to apply them to tackle abuse.*' Upon her arrival at a meeting of EU justice ministers in Brussels yesterday, Mrs May called for reform of free movement, a proposal with support in Germany, the Netherlands and Austria (Daily-Mail, UK, 6/12).

· Daily-Mail, UK, 6/12, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2519048/Eurocrat-Viviane-Redings-stinging-reply-Theresa-Mays-Migrant-cap-proposal.html>

No one wants Republika Srpska in Kosovo

Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi and that of Serbia, Ivica Dačić have met in Brussels mediated at talks mediated by Baroness Catherine Ashton. Ashton said that part of the discussions would be the implementation of the April 19 agreement for the normalization of relations between the two countries. This meeting is being held a few days after the second round of local government elections in Kosovo, in which northern communes with Serb majorities participated (balkaneu.com, EL, 5/12). However the first elections in the entire territory of Kosovo would not have been successful without the active role of Belgrade. Thanks to Belgrade, the Serb municipalities can finally live in peace, while Washington and Brussels will help Pristina not to create a new Republika Srpska out of Kosovo. Serbia now expects that the EU Council will give the green light for the organisation of the EU-Serbia intergovernmental conference, which would symbolise the launch of negotiations on Serbia's membership in the EU. Whether or not Belgrade will be '*rewarded*' will also depend on the report of the EU foreign policy Catherine Ashton on the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina (Delo, SI, 6/12).

- balkaneu.com, EL, 5/12, <http://www.balkaneu.com/thaci-dacic-meet-brussels/>
- Delo, SI, 6/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131206/mi/item_179014506.pdf

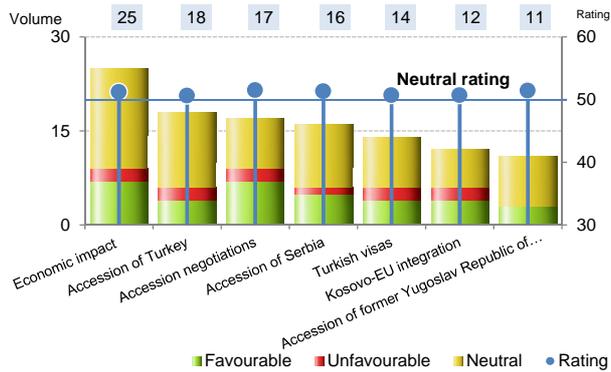
Commissioner Štefan Füle speaks about the accession to the EU of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle gave a speech at the Conference of the Friends of Europe think tank, regarding the negotiations for the accession of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EU. Naftemporiki (EL, 6/12) comments that Mr Füle appeared pessimistic over the beginning of accession negotiations. "*The perspectives for the talks at the EU Council are gloomy*", commended Mr Füle, expressing his concern about the tense internal political situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As far as the name issue is concerned, Mr Füle stated that there are still no tangible results.

- Naftemporiki, EL, 6/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131206/mi/item_179022632.pdf

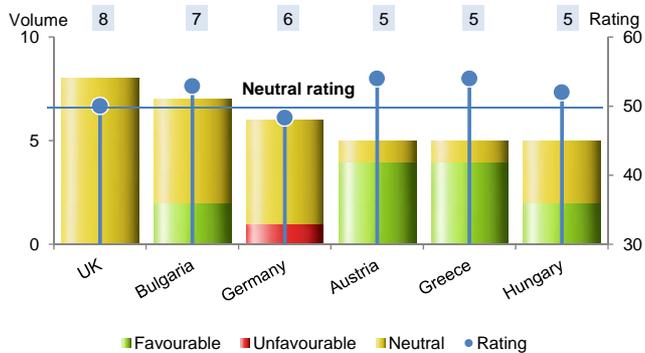
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	7
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	7
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	6
Theresa May (Home Secretary, UK)	6
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	5

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