

Key Quotes

Thomas von der Dunk writes that *"Europe will have to treat the Ukraine gently. With pro-Europeans trying to steer their country towards future membership, Brussels will not reject the prospect offhand; in the same way that it did not have the courage to remove Romania and Bulgaria from the waiting room, ultimately leading to their EU membership. Indeed, Brussels has – also with Turkey in mind – never dared to draw a geographical boundary"*. He continues *"Realists know that the transformation required by countries like the Ukraine, Turkey and Serbia to meet the accession criteria will take decades, if not generations. At the same time, Brussels does not want to reject these countries, and rightly so. The time has thus come to seriously consider several intermediate forms: a distinction between A and B membership; an alternative version of the two-speed Europe, which indeed already exists with the euro"* (Presseeurop.eu, FR, 9/12).
<http://www.presseurop.eu/fr/content/article/4388201-une-deuxieme-division-europeenne-pour-l-ukraine?xtor=RSS-18>

Summary

Serbia and Kosovo talk in Brussels

During the 19th round of talks between the PMs of Serbia and Kosovo with the EU High Representative for foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton in Brussels, the two sides reached an agreement for the integration of Serbs in Kosovo police. Meanwhile, the issue of setting up courts in northern Kosovo remained unresolved. After the three-hour meeting, the Serbian PM, Ivica Dačić said it is important that the report Ms Ashton will send to the Ministers of the EU member should be positive, because the successful implementation of the Brussels agreement should be crowned with the opening of accession negotiations between Serbia and the EU. Mr Dačić expressed the expectation that there will not be any new conditions for the opening of EU accession negotiations (Eleftherotypia, EL, 9/11). Meanwhile Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić and the Slovenian Minister of Defence, Roman Jakič, spoke about improvements in regional and bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of military and military economic cooperation. An agreement on joint participation of the two countries' army soldiers in peacekeeping missions of the EU and UN was reached at the meeting. Jakič expressed full support for Serbia's European integration, the implementation of the Brussels agreement and the recently held local elections in Kosovo-Metohija (balkans.com, UK, 9/12).

- Eleftherotypia, EL, 9/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131209/mi/item_179330310.pdf
- balkans.com, UK, 9/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=185891>

Free movement and migration

The European Commission on Thursday (5 December) presented its report on free movement to interior ministers after a handful of member states in April complained about EU nationals abusing their welfare systems. *"Free movement is a right to free circulation; it is not a right to migrate into member states' social security systems"* EU commissioner for justice Viviane Reding told the ministers. The commission says very few EU nationals draw on benefits in their host states and that the vast majority move for work related reasons. The UK, along with Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands, say some EU citizens are a financial burden because they receive benefits they are not entitled to. Reding's plan to crack down on the abuse has five elements. She is proposing a handbook to help local authorities spot sham marriages as well as guidelines on habitual residency. The latter would determine the extent to which a person is entitled to draw benefits in a host EU country. Topping up the European Social Fund and helping local authorities understand EU free movement rules, are also part of Reding's solution (stockwatch.com.cy, CY, 6/12).

- stockwatch.com.cy, CY, 6/12, http://www.stockwatch.com.cy/nqcontent.cfm?a_name=news_view&ann_id=187915&lang=en

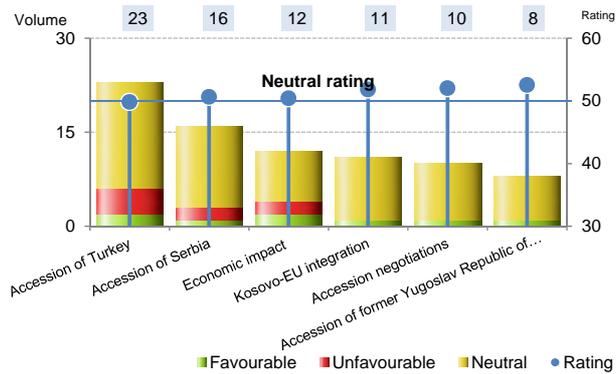
Montenegrin accession

Montenegro's chief negotiator Aleksandar Perković said *"The 29th EU Member will be Montenegro"* adding *"The first two years of the accession process were extremely positive for us. The EU Commission was and is very helpful"* and went on to say *"In reality, the expansion has greatly contributed to economic growth, trade relations have improved, markets have opened. Democratic principles and the rule of law, the principles of the European continent have spread in a way that was never the case before. If you look at it from this perspective, one can see that the expansion has only brought benefits though sometimes citizens do not see it this way"* (euractiv.de, DE, 9/12).

- euractiv.de, DE, 9/12, <http://www.euractiv.de/erweiterung-und-nachbarn/artikel/wie-montenegro-an-seinem-eu-beitritt-arbeitet-008332>

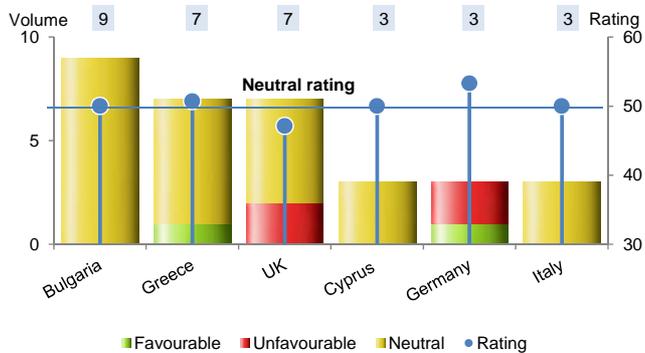
Charts

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by volume, favourability & rating



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Volume	38 items
Rating	49.6
Favourable %	5.3%
Unfavourable %	15.8%
Neutral %	78.9%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	3
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	2
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	2
Egemen Ç (European Affairs Minister, Turkey)	2
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (MEP)	2

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