

## Key Quotes

The European Commission has halved funding to Bosnia and Herzegovina because its politicians have failed to agree on how to make the constitution fair for all ethnic groups, an official said on Tuesday. **"We are stuck with Bosnia-Herzegovina, sadly. There is no progress here,"** Joost Korte, the EC deputy director general for enlargement said, adding that unless the authorities put more effort into reaching a deal, the EU would no longer be able to work with them (Reuters, UK, 10/12).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/12/10/uk-bosnia-eu-funds-idUKBRE9B90FW20131210>

Turkish Cypriot daily Kibris newspaper yesterday reported on statements made by Turkey's EU Minister Egemen Bağış, that a Cyprus solution could lift the obstacles preventing the opening and closing of 14 chapters in Turkey's EU accession negotiations. **"I believe that 2014 will be an important transformation year with regards to Turkey's EU process,"** he said (Cyprus Mail, CY, 10/12).

<http://cyprus-mail.com/2013/12/10/talks-on-joint-communiqué-at-sensitive-stage/>

## Summary

### Turkey's future and the EU

Columnist Serkan Demirtas, writing in Turkish daily Hurriyet Daily News (online, 09.12.13), reports that Turkey's visible, pragmatic return to its European Union agenda following a long-term cooling of ties with Brussels is aiming both to distract attention from poor foreign policy performance in the Middle East and to utilize the soon-to-be-signed visa deal with Brussels as part of the ruling party's pre-election campaign, according to foreign diplomats. Turkey's return to the EU agenda will be enriched by some high-level exchanges of visits in December and January. Among them most important is Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's projected visit to Brussels in mid-January, nearly four years after his last journey where he will meet with top EU officials, President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and President of the European Parliament Martin Schultz. French President François Hollande's visit to Turkey and Turkish President Abdullah Gül's planned visit to Italy, both late January, are also seen very important in this regard. For his part, Davutoglu will be in Athens on Dec. 13, in an important visit that comes just before Greece resumption of the EU's term presidency on Jan. 1, 2014. Apart from Turkey's accession process, envisioned unification talks in Cyprus will also be a very important item during the foreign minister's visit (hri.org, CY, 9/12).

· hri.org, CY, 9/12, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-12-09.tcpr.html>

### Montenegrin visit to Serbia

Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović paid his first official visit to Serbia. The visit came at the invitation of Serbia's Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and signifies the continuation of intensive political dialogue between the two countries aimed at improving bilateral, regional, and international cooperation, as well as economic exchange. Prime Minister Đukanović met Serbia's top officials and discussed cooperation in tourism, energy, and especially transport infrastructure. In an opinion piece for Serbia's NIN on 5 December, Prime Minister Đukanović underlined the relations between the two states are *"brotherly"* and added that he looks forward to the region's shared future within the EU. In addition to Mr Dačić, Mr Đukanović has met with Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić, Speaker of the Parliament Nebojša Stefanović, and First Deputy Minister Aleksandar Vučić. The Prime Minister was accompanied by ministers of economy and tourism and sustainable development, Vladimir Kavarić and Branimir Gvozdenović (balkans.com, UK, 10/12).

· balkans.com, UK, 10/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=185946>

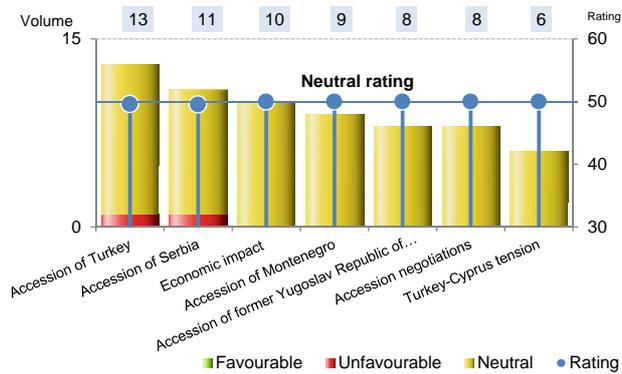
### Visit of the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Brussels

The start of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU accession negotiations is in EU's hands, newspaper Dnevnik of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reports. The newspaper says that there was a meeting between the Prime Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, in Brussels on December 9. During the meeting Mr Gruevski presented his country's progress towards EU integration and expressed the country's hopes that EU accession negotiations could start in the near future. Dnevnik quotes unofficial information according to which, Mr Van Rompuy expressed interest in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's progress, but clearly stated that in order for the accession negotiations to start, all EU member states had to support them (focus-fen.net, BG, 10/12).

· focus-fen.net, BG, 10/12, <http://focus-fen.net/?id=n320749>

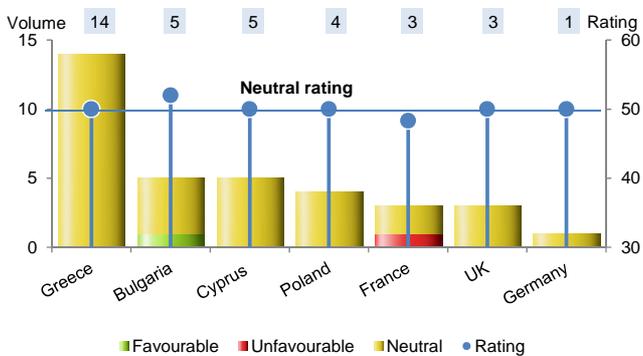
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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Milo Đukanović (Prime Minister, Montenegro)	6
Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Nikola Gruevski (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	4
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4
Jiří Šitler (Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Romania)	4

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