

Key Quotes

Bulgarian MEP Evgeni Kirilov has filed a proposal for a new paragraph to be included in the draft resolution on this year's progress report of Turkey. The amendment concerns the statement made by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Kesan, the press office of the Bulgarian MEP announced. The text reads as follows: **"[The European Parliament,] taking into account certain unconsidered irredentist statements of Prime Minister Erdoğan, calls the Turkish authorities to abstain from provocative rhetoric in connection with the neighbouring countries, which can bear a destabilising effect on the good neighbourly relations with the EU member states, as well as in connection with certain countries in the West Balkans"** (Focus-fen.net, BG, 12/12).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n320964>

The European Parliament has approved 51.4 billion euros in funding for EU foreign policy instruments for the 2014-2020 period. Development cooperation, aid for EU enlargement, and relations with neighbouring partner countries are the three major areas that the aid package passed by a broad majority in the Strasbourg Assembly will focus on. EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said that the funds would make it possible to **"accompany in an effective manner"** reforms and efforts made by neighbour countries to the east that are attempting to bring their policies in line with EU standards while bolstering democratisation and social and economic development in the bloc's southern neighbours (ansa.it, IT, 11/12).

http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/economics/2013/12/11/EU-Parliament-OKs-EUR-51-bln-2014-20-foreign-policy_9764455.html

Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina: stepping forwards or backwards?

EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle has described the negotiations in Prague, in which seven leaders from Bosnia and Herzegovina discussed the enforcement of the judgment in the case of Sejdić-Finci as showing important progress. He has said that he is especially happy because the leaders, although only in principle, agreed on the composition and method of selection of the representatives of the House of Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and members of the Presidency. But Doris Pack, European Parliament rapporteur for Bosnia and Herzegovina, has stated that complete mess and chaos govern the country. In addition, the Management Board of the Peace Implementation Council is concerned over the delay in reforms that Bosnia and Herzegovina should implement if it wants to join Euro-Atlantic structures (Delo, SI, 11/12). Lack of progress in reforms has lost Bosnia 45 million euro in EU pre-accession funds in 2013, part of which will be redirected to Kosovo instead (boon.hu, HU, 10/12).

- Delo, SI, 11/12, [link not available]
- boon.hu, HU, 10/12, <http://www.boon.hu/koszovo-kapia-a-bosznia-hercegovinatal-megvont-unios-osszeg-felet/2433033>

US support for Serbian accession

The USA is in support of the European course of Serbia and the reforms implemented by the Serbian Government, stated director of the US State Department's office for South and Central Europe Jonathan Moore, during the talks with Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić in Belgrade. They have assessed that the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue and implementation of the Brussels agreement are having positive impact on the stability in the region, and that the local elections in Kosovo were well organised. Dačić has stressed the resolve of the Serbian Government to solve all open issues efficiently, and he expressed belief that the intergovernmental conference on the association with the EU will be held very soon, and not later than January next year. He specified that the Serbian Government has adopted all necessary documents for the talks. The Prime Minister added that it is in the interest of Serbia to enhance the political dialogue with the USA and to improve the economic cooperation (balkans.com, UK, 11/12).

- balkans.com, UK, 11/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=186021>

Perceptions of Turkey

EP rapporteur on Turkey says that Turkey will shape Europe's future. The negotiations with Turkey on accession to the European Union, like the procession of Echternach is two steps forward, one step back, but someday it will be big neighbour and part of the EU (nd.nl, NL, 10/12). Meanwhile in the Dutch Parliament the VVD party said that a billion euros for Turkey is "crazy". The House of Representatives is furious about a grant of almost 1 billion euros the EU pays to Turkey every year. Mark Verheijen said **"If a country is not performing, deteriorating, does not make progress, then it should be really given less money"** (rtlnieuws.nl, NL, 11/12).

- nd.nl, NL, 10/12, <http://www.nd.nl/artikelen/2013/december/10/ria-oomen-turkije-wordt-ooit-lid-van-e>
- rtlnieuws.nl, NL, 11/12, <http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/binnenland/vvd-miljard-euro-voor-turkije-van-de-gekke>

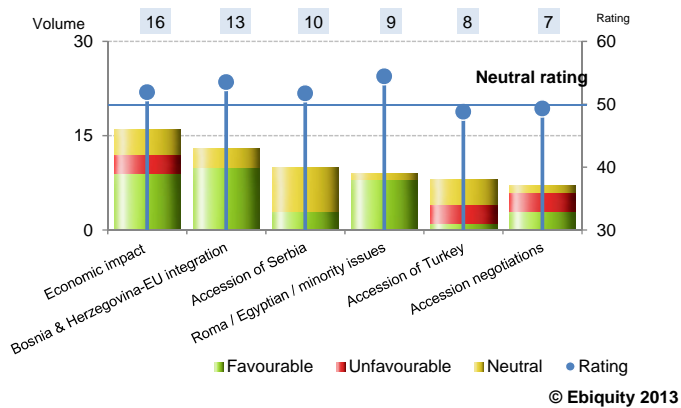
Dutch politicians against Albanian candidacy for EU membership

"The country is not ready yet" says Dutch VVD MP Mark Verheijen adding **"there is a lot of corruption and organised crime in the country"**. The European Commission proposed last October to grant candidate status for Albania, and Liberal MP Verheijen has commented on that issue saying **"The Commission has assessed the situation too rosy. They are too much focused on rapid expansion"** (Volkskrant, NL, 11/12).

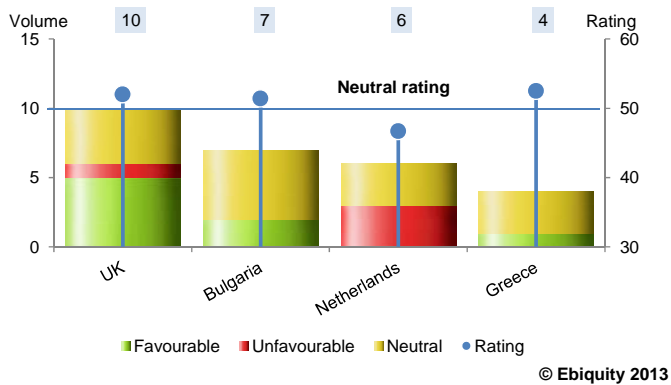
- Volkskrant, NL, 11/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131211/mi/item_179587935.pdf

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
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Volume	34 items
Rating	51.0
Favourable %	32.3%
Unfavourable %	11.8%
Neutral %	55.9%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Joost Korte (Deputy Director-General DG Enlargement, EC)	9
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Yiannis Boutaris (Mayor of Thessaloniki)	4
Mark Verheijen (Politician, Netherlands)	3
Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands)	3
Plamen Oresharski (Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	3
Ria Oomen-Ruijten (MEP)	2

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