



Key Quotes

Is Serbia the new Ukraine? A week after the protests in Ukraine began, and a few days after the launch of South Stream, Vuk Drašković, a leader of SPO party (the Serbian Renewal Movement), said: **“Serbia is in great danger of becoming the new Ukraine”**. The politician claims that Serbia is exposed to pressures to give up on European Union and join, both politically and economically, one **“other Union”**, alluding to Putin’s proposed political and economic union, the Eurasian Union (neurope.eu, BE, 12/12).

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/serbia-new-ukraine>

Summary

Bulgaria supports Serbia's EU path

“The integration of the Balkans into the European Union is of strategic importance for Bulgaria” said Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev at a meeting with Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić (dariknews.bg, BG, 11/12). Chair of Bulgarian Parliament Mikhail Mikhov has appealed for consideration of a European project concerning areas bordering Serbia during his meeting with Serbian PM Ivica Dačić. Dačić has supported Mikhov’s stance and has added that joint projects in different spheres need to be revived. Mikhail Mikhov has stated that both countries don’t face any politically unsolved issues and their relations can be given as an example for good neighbourly ones. He has expressed the unreserved support of Bulgaria in relation to Serbia’s EU membership. At the same time Dačić has stated that he upholds Bulgaria’s stance on the Schengen issue (bnr.bg, BG, 11/12). Dačić had arrived in the country for a series of high-level meetings before the expected start of formal negotiations on the accession of Serbia to the EU ([Sega-Daily](http://sega-daily.bg), BG, 12/12).

- dariknews.bg, BG, 11/12, [link not available]
- bnr.bg, BG, 11/12, <http://bnr.bg/sites/en/News2013/Pages/11.12%20B10.aspx>
- [Sega-Daily](http://sega-daily.bg), BG, 12/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131212/mi/item_179743108.pdf

Battle at the EU on sovereignty

A battle is raging at the EU Council on two fronts ahead of the release of the conclusions on Turkey's accession progress, with discussion focusing on sovereignty and the unfreezing of accession chapters. Cyprus is seeking a specific reference to the respect of its sovereignty by Turkey, not just its territorial rights, with the UK however expressing opposition and concern that any reference to sovereignty will hinder solution efforts. At the same time, a block of 20 member states, led by the UK and Sweden, is pushing for the unfreezing of accession chapters blocked by Cyprus ([Phileleftheros](http://phileleftheros.cy), CY, 12/12). Turkish daily Today's Zaman (online, 10.12.13) reported that Italian Ambassador to Turkey, Gianpaolo Scarante recalled that Italy will hold the EU presidency in 2014 and promised to provide support for Turkey's EU negotiations. Scarante stressed that negotiations are now continuing after a pause, stating that the EU opened Chapter 22 on regional policy and the coordination of structural instruments at the Intergovernmental Accession Conference in November. The Italian ambassador underlined that Europe and Turkey have a long shared history and said, *“I can't imagine the future of the country without Europe, because Europe is in Turkey's past. It's in your present as well”* adding *“We consider Turkey European. When Istanbul was a European Capital of Culture, when speaking about Turkey being part of the European Championship in football, nobody asked why Turkey was in the championship”* he said (hri.org, CY, 11/12).

- [Phileleftheros](http://phileleftheros.cy), CY, 12/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131212/mi/item_179746077.pdf
- hri.org, CY, 11/12, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2013/13-12-11.tcpr.html>

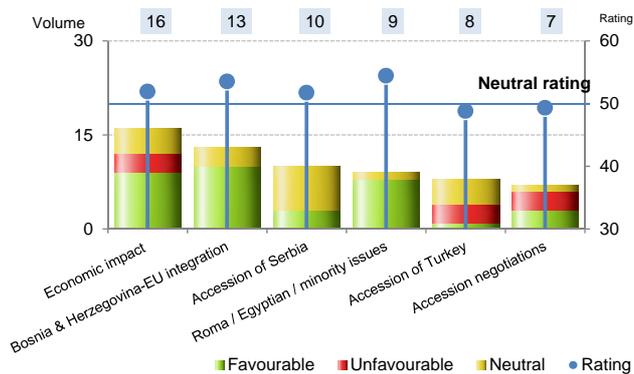
Draft resolution on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Amendments to the European Parliament (EP)’s draft resolution on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been recorded. Richard Howitt, the EP rapporteur on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said that the MEPs had filed a serious number of amendments. *“There is a strong debate on the country, on its European future, as well as on the challenges it is faced with. There will be essential remarks, which will be put under debate and be voted on,”* Richard Howitt added that launching accession talks is both to Skopje’s and the EU’s benefit (focus-fen.net, BG, 12/12).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/12, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n320961>

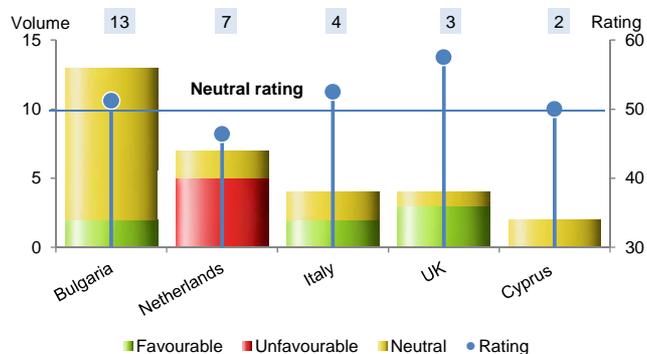
Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



© Ebiquity 2013

ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 33 items |
| Rating | 51.4 |
| Favourable % | 30.3% |
| Unfavourable % | 15.2% |
| Neutral % | 54.5% |

© Ebiquity 2013

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey) | 7 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 7 |
| Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands) | 5 |
| Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU) | 3 |
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC) | 2 |
| Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo) | 2 |
| Joost Korte (Deputy Director-General DG Enlargement, EC) | 2 |
| Plamen Oresharski (Prime Minister, Bulgaria) | 2 |

© Ebiquity 2013

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.