

## Key Quotes

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called on the Greek Cypriots Saturday to make "**positive**" contributions toward stalled UN-backed peace talks on the decades-old division of Cyprus. "**We hope that the Greek Cypriot side will make positive contributions to the active efforts of the United Nations,**" Davutoglu said before meeting Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu. "**Then, it will be possible to achieve permanent peace both in the island and in the eastern Mediterranean,**" he said (Yahoo!, UK, 14/12).

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-calls-greek-cypriots-contribute-talks-183202187.html#XefSsTO>

Bulgaria's Foreign Minister has expressed his satisfaction with the Readmission Agreement that is to be signed between EU and Turkey on December 16. "**The agreement is important for us, as it will give us new opportunities to deal with the influx of refugees,**" Kristian Vigenin told the state-owned radio BNR on Monday (Novinite.com, BG, 16/12).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/156462/Bulgaria+FM%3A+EU-Turkey+Readmission+Deal+to+Help+Us+Cope+with+Refugees>

## Summary

### Serbia on track, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia must wait

The decisions concerning further advances in EU enlargement will not be officially made until the first meeting of foreign ministers on Tuesday, but in the run-up it appears that the start of accession negotiations with Serbia in January will be confirmed. There will be negotiations on the central chapters 23 and 24 (Judiciary, Fundamental Rights, Security) with Turkey soon (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 13/12). The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's hopes of a green light to accession talks at the European Council next Thursday and Friday (19-20 December), are however, certain to be dashed once again by opposition from Greece, as the latest efforts to resolve the problem at the root of Greece's opposition have foundered. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been a candidate for EU membership since 2005 (balkans.com, UK, 12/12).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 13/12, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131213/mi/item\\_179902887.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131213/mi/item_179902887.pdf)
- balkans.com, UK, 12/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniqueid=186067>

### Meeting between Serbia and Kosovo

Serbia's and Kosovo's Premiers Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaçi are scheduled to meet on Friday in Brussels for talks mediated by diplomacy chief Catherine Ashton. The new round of talks between Belgrade and Pristina will focus on the judiciary, in particular on new tribunals in Serbian-majority northern Kosovo. The meeting will be key in the decision the European Council will take next week on the start of Serbia's EU accession talks scheduled by January 2014 (ansamed.info, IT, 13/12). Kosovo has demanded for the court headquarters to be situated in the southern part of Mitrovica with branches in the communes of the northern part, while the delegation led by Dačić has demanded for the court headquarter to be in the north with branches in the south of what Belgrade considers to be a divided town (balkaneu.com, EL, 13/12). Kosovo's president, Atifete Jahjaga, has used an annual speech in parliament to insist all citizens there are equal regardless of ethnic or national origin or religious beliefs. Then, addressing deputies in Serbian, Jahjaga called on all Kosovar citizens to work together to build a better future. She also appealed for maximum support for an EU-mediated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina in Brussels (rferl.org, CZ, 12/12).

- ansamed.info, IT, 13/12, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/12/13/Kosovo-new-meeting-Dacic-Thaci-Ashton-today-Brussels\\_9772162.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/12/13/Kosovo-new-meeting-Dacic-Thaci-Ashton-today-Brussels_9772162.html)
- balkaneu.com, EL, 13/12, <http://www.balkaneu.com/thaci-dacic-brussels-again-important-meeting-serbia/>
- rferl.org, CZ, 12/12, <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/25198825.htm>

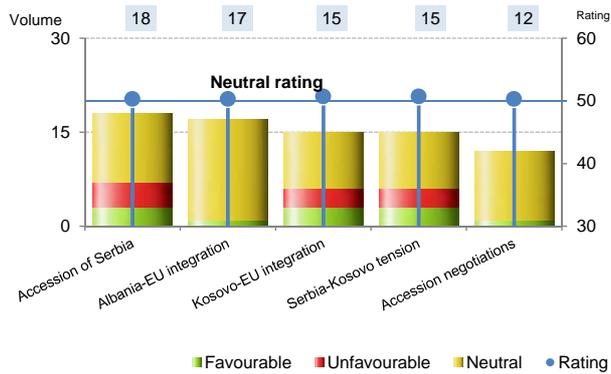
### Albania's candidacy

The EU Council should make Albania an official candidate for EU membership without delay, in recognition of its progress with reform, said the European Parliament in a resolution. It also called for constructive dialogue between all the political actors in Albania and stressed that the preparations for EU integration must have broad political and public support. "**We are sending a unanimous message to the Council: Albania deserves to be given candidate status. It has advanced on the reform agenda, namely with legal reforms, and has also reached a new level of political maturity through the orderly and peaceful transfer of power following the June elections,**" said Nikola Vuljanić, the Croatian rapporteur for Albania (ansamed.info, IT, 12/12). The Dutch House of Representatives is still against Albania as a candidate EU member. According to the House of Representatives, tackling corruption is still insufficient and the rule of law should be further strengthened (volkskrant.nl, NL, 12/12).

- ansamed.info, IT, 12/12, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/12/12/Albania-European-Parliament-calls-candidate-status\\_9768410.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2013/12/12/Albania-European-Parliament-calls-candidate-status_9768410.html)
- volkskrant.nl, NL, 12/12, <http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2824/Politiek/article/detail/3561241/2013/12/12/Kamer-noq-tegen-Albanie-als-kandidaat-lid-EU.dhtml>

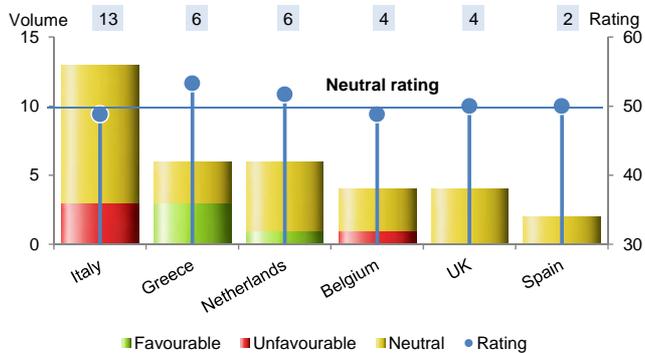
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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	4
Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands)	4
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	3
Petrit Selimi (Deputy Foreign Minister, Kosovo)	3

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