



Key Quotes

Croatian member of the European Parliament Tonino Picula has said that the European Commission will be a strict controller and evaluator of the accession negotiations with Montenegro, notably the policy chapters "Judiciary and Fundamental Rights" and "Justice, Freedom and Security", and that Montenegro "won't be cut any slack". "Enlargement is not the European Union's priority and Montenegro will very soon feel a sort of strictness which other member states did not go through," Picula told Montenegrin Radio on Friday (Dnevno.hr, HR, 10/1). <http://www.dnevno.hr/vijesti/svijet/eu/111208-hrvatski-euoparlamentarac-naqazio-crnoqorce-osjetit-cete-strogocu-kakve-dosad-nije-bilo.html>

Summary

Turkey's long-held EU hopes

The corruption scandal which is affecting the Turkish Government has turned into a fight for control over the state's institutions; Turkish opposition denounced the manoeuvre as "unconstitutional" and the European Commission expressed concern that this approach would undermine the independence of justice. (Ziarul-Financiar, RO, 10/1). Turkish EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has called on the 28-nation bloc not to make "unilateral and impatient statements via media" and urged calm over the events following a major graft probe according to Hurriyet Daily News cited by BTA. "No one should have any concern about Turkey's commitment to the principle of rule of law and obligations stemming from the EU accession process," Çavuşoğlu wrote on his official Twitter account (dnevnik.bg, BG, 10/1). With the Turkish Premier embroiled in the country's worst crisis in more than a decade, "it's becoming difficult to imagine Mr Erdoğan regaining the political dominance" he long enjoyed, said Georges Koumoussakos, a Greek member of the European Parliament who is a member of the EU-Turkey group. "It therefore becomes difficult to imagine what progress can be made in relations between the EU and Turkey" he told AFP (eubusiness.com, UK, 9/1).

- Ziarul-Financiar, RO, 10/1, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140110/mi/item_182844725.pdf
- dnevnik.bg, BG, 10/1, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshiriavane/2014/01/10/2217239_turski_ministur_nastoia_es_da_se_vuzdurja_ot/?ref=rss
- eubusiness.com, UK, 9/1, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/turkey-politics.ss2/>

Serbian political life

Were Shakespeare living today, he might find a source of inspiration in Serbia. Old enemies shake hands, former friends stab each other in the back, unnatural political alliances are hatched and jail beckons many who recently prospered. In such a fevered atmosphere this month promises to be crucial. Both main political parties are holding meetings that will set the year's agenda—and should end speculation about early elections (economist.com, UK, 10/1). Meanwhile the Serbian Minister without Portfolio, responsible for EU membership, Branko Ružić expressed confidence that the country, in collaboration with Germany and the EU, will jointly find a solution to the problem of false asylum seekers and remove the risk of lifting the visa regime (real.gr, EL, 9/1).

- economist.com, UK, 10/1, <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21593504-politicians-fight-each-other-instead-celebrating-eu-accession-talks-serbian-shenaniqans>
- real.gr, EL, 9/1, <http://www.real.gr/DefaultArthro.aspx?page=arthro&id=288645&catID=4>

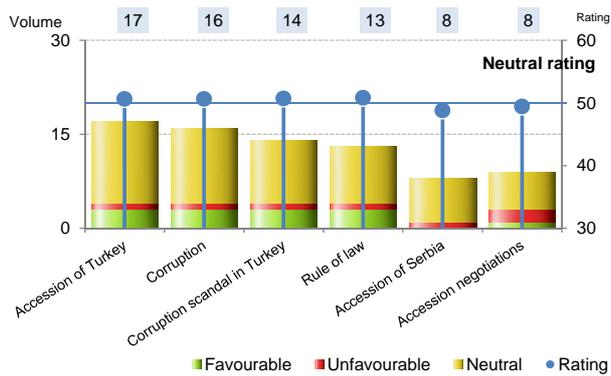
Serbia Accession Talks

EU ministers at the last General Affairs Council of 2013 agreed that Serbia should start accession talks and that Kosovo should be thanked for being constructive and loyal to EU. Serbia was perhaps the only Western Balkans winner based on the Council conclusions: The others more or less remained at the same stage as they were before, except for Albania, which, based on UK leader David Cameron's speech, went "backwards". But on closer inspection, the biggest loser seems to be Kosovo, which had been promised a reward for being constructive in the political dialogue with Serbia, but which got nothing. Kosovar citizens were led to believe by the government that the Serbia dialogue would not only strengthen Kosovo's sovereignty, but will also accelerate its progress toward visa-free travel and the signature of a Stabilisation and Association pact with the EU (euobserver.com, BE, 10/1).

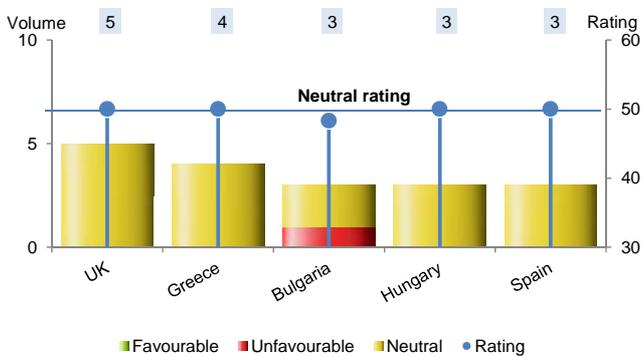
- euobserver.com, BE, 10/1, <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21593504-politicians-fight-each-other-instead-celebrating-eu-accession-talks-serbian-shenaniqans>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	30 items
Rating	50.0
Favourable %	10%
Unfavourable %	6.7%
Neutral %	83.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	14
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
László Varga (National Assembly, Serbia)	3
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	2
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	2

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