

## Summary

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) reported in a statement yesterday that EU help for Kosovo's police and judiciary "has had only modest success", and that Kosovo's judiciary "continues to suffer from political interference, inefficiency and a lack of transparency and enforcement" BBC News reported (UK, 30/10) adding that Kosovo is the biggest recipient of EU aid per capita in the world. Acknowledging that rule of law started from a low base, the ECA commented that "nevertheless, the audit found that there were significant areas where better management by the EEAS and Commission could have made EU assistance more effective".

- BBC News Europe, UK, 30/10, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20138687>

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton began a five-nation Balkans tour yesterday, seeking to push regional leaders to stick to existing agreements and enact the reforms needed to join the EU and NATO according to lepopulaire.fr, (FR, 29/10). Accompanied by Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Clinton's first stop was Sarajevo. Ashton and Secretary Clinton met the BiH Presidency to express support for the European perspective of a single, united and sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina. The pair were due to underline the urgent need for party leaders to serve the interests of the people of that country and accomplish necessary reforms to become members of the European Union and NATO. A State Department spokesman said ahead of the trip. "We are disappointed that the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have often failed to put the interests of the country first and instead have promoted narrow ethnic, party or personal agendas". (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 30/10).

- lepopulaire.fr, FR, 29/10, <http://www.lepopulaire.fr/france-monde/actualites/a-la-une/international/2012/10/29/hillary-clinton-dans-les-balkans-pour-pousser-reconciliation-et-reformes-1314866.html>
- index.hu, HU, 29/10, [http://index.hu/kulfold/2012/10/29/4000\\_rendor\\_viqvaz\\_clintonra\\_belgradban/](http://index.hu/kulfold/2012/10/29/4000_rendor_viqvaz_clintonra_belgradban/)
- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 30/10, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/clinton-sarajevo-first-leq-balkans-tour-193651527.html>

They also visited Serbia where Clinton and Ashton want dialogue and reforms from both Serbia and Kosovo. Dnevnik reported that the visit is taking place at an interesting time, when the Serbian political leadership is creating a platform for dialogue with Kosovo, which will spell out basic guidelines on key issues, but which, according to senior politicians, does not include the possibility of recognition of Kosovo's independence (Dnevnik, SI, 30/10). Clinton and Ashton will not officially set new conditions for Serbia according to Delo, (SI, 30/10) and Belgrade hopes this high-level visit is another step on Serbia's path towards European integration (Nepszava, HU, 30/10).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, DE, 30/10, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item\\_138545272.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item_138545272.pdf)
- Dnevnik, SI, 30/10, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item\\_138538351.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item_138538351.pdf)
- Delo, SI, 30/10, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item\\_138545792.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item_138545792.pdf)
- Nepszava, HU, 30/10, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item\\_138543811.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item_138543811.pdf)

Elsewhere but still with accession negotiations, Bulgaria has once again expressed its support for Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) to join the European Union. Speaking in the south-western town of Blagoevgrad, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolay Mladenov who had embarked on a 3 day journey along the border with the fYRoM to poll the opinions of the people living there in relation to Skopje's EU accession, stated that no other country would benefit more from their accession than Bulgaria. He also said that Bulgaria is concerned with the European Commission's progress report on the fYRoM, since key issues such as the problems of the Bulgarian minority in the country have not been included (novinite.com, BG, 30/10, 24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 30/10). Mladenov said that Bulgaria supports the fYRoM's EU bid, but not at any cost (Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 30/10).

- novinite.com, BG, 30/10, [http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=144609](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=144609)
- Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 30/10, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item\\_138531612.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item_138531612.pdf)
- 24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 30/10, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item\\_138531612.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121030/mi/item_138531612.pdf)

Croatia was also in the news when Slovenian MEP Tanja Fajon raised the possibility of Croatia not joining the EU on 1 July 2013 as planned, but in 2014. Ms Fajon explained that Croatia's readiness for accession will be shown in EC's report in spring of 2013 (sta.si, SI, 29/10).

- sta.si, SI, 29/10, <http://www.sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1815347>

## Key Quotes

**The European Union will lose Turkey if it doesn't grant it membership by 2023, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday.** (Reuters, UK, 31/10) <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/10/31/uk-germany-turkey-idUKBRE89T1TE20121031?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

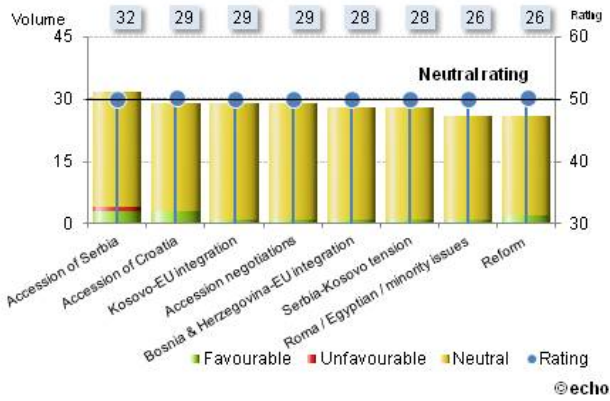
**"Erdogan wants a rapid EU accession of Turkey"** (Vienna Online, Austria, 31/10). <http://www.vienna.at/erdogan-will-raschen-eu-beitritt-der-tuerkei/apa-1410032072>

"The United States urges all parties to implement the agreements reached to date (in the EU-brokered talks between Belgrade and Pristina), and to advance concrete measures to normalise relations," Clinton said after meeting Serbian leaders in Belgrade. (Yahoo! UK and Ireland, UK, 31/10) <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/clinton-push-kosovo-step-eu-nato-integration-061210394.html>

"Membership of the EU continues to run us dry" (Daily Express, UK, 31/10). <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/355403/Membership-of-the-EU-continues-to-run-us-dry/>

## Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating

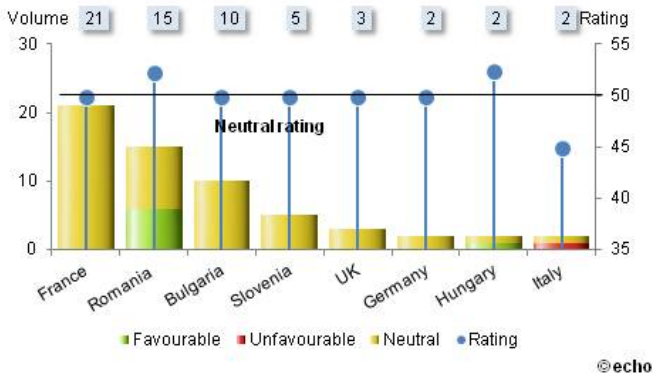


ELARG: **Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	60 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	11.7%
Unfavourable %	1.6%
Neutral %	86.7%

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ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	30
Hillary Clinton (Secretary of State, US)	29
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	26
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	26
Nikolay Mladenov (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	13
Hajredin Kuçi (Minister of Justice, Kosovo)	11
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EU)	7
Leonard Orban (Minister of European Affairs, Romania)	7