



Key Quotes

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Top European Union officials have praised Serbia's progress towards accession into the EU. The EU's Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle commended the Balkan country's efforts during a meeting with President Tomislav Nikolić in Belgrade. **"A few days ago we marked the tenth anniversary of the biggest enlargement of the EU. Back in 2004, European integration of Serbia seemed like the distant future and today it is an apparent certainty. I am convinced that Serbia has the ability to turn that possibility into reality,"** Füle commented

(novinite.com, BG, 5/5)

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/160285/Fuele,+Ashton+Praise+Serbia%E2%80%99s+EU+Membership+Progress>

Summary

Serbia makes good on old promises

Serbia's new Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić plans to make good on an old promise with a new team and to implement reforms. He is adhering to an EU course in the process. Serbia altered its position towards Kosovo last year, which it still has not recognised, and was rewarded with the beginning of EU accession negotiations. Mr Vučić plans to address the most difficult points of the negotiation before the end of the year, the judiciary and fundamental rights, and to join the EU by 2020 at the latest. *"I would not doubt the capabilities of this man to set a new record time"*, said the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton

(Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 5/5).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 5/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140505/mi/item_197577237.pdf

Postponement to avoid blame game

According to Phileleftheros, the European Commission deliberated with Turkey and the UK and decided to postpone the timeframe for the EU-Turkey Association Committee in order to avoid criticizing the Erdogan regime and the violation of freedom of expression and to subsequently avoid new turbulence in EU-Turkey relations. Unnamed sources state that operating as a *"peculiar Troika"*, the Commission, the UK and Turkey agreed that organizing the Association Council during last March or April would cause damage to Turkey's accession course and revert efforts to revive it (Phileleftheros, CY, 4/5).

- Phileleftheros, CY, 4/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140504/mi/item_197576665.pdf

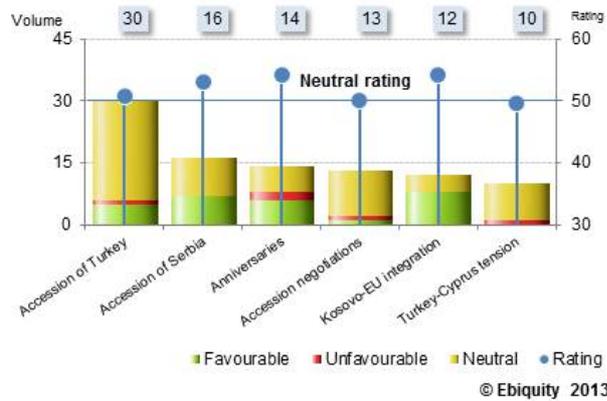
Cyprus has been a clear loser of EU membership, according to a comparative report by The Economist

According to a comparative look at GDP per person for each country in 2004 and 2014, Cyprus came out the clear loser of the pack since EU membership. *"Cypriots have actually become less well-off, suffering a 13 per cent decline in living standards since 2004,"* said The Economist. From the new Member States, Slovenia, which also experienced a big banking crisis also did relatively poorly, with GDP per capita rising by only 7 per cent. The Baltic countries, Lithuania and Latvia, together with Poland and Slovakia, registered gains of over 40 per cent in GDP per person (cyprus-mail.com, CY, 3/5).

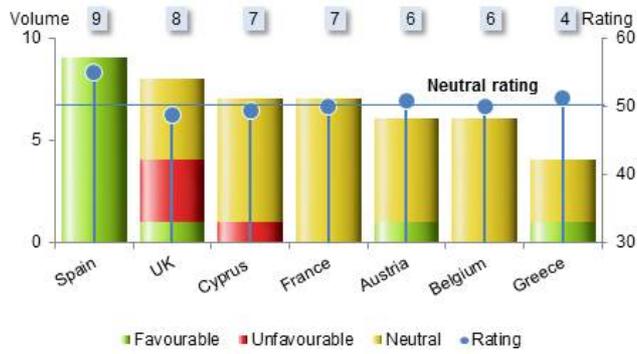
- cyprus-mail.com, CY, 3/5, <http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/05/03/cyprus-worse-off-after-eu-accession/>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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Volume	62 items
Rating	51.8
Favourable %	29%
Unfavourable %	6.5%
Neutral %	64.5%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	11
Peter Stano (Spokesperson Enlargement, EC)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	4
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	2
Nigel Farage (MEP)	2
Jean-Claude Juncker (Presidential candidate, EC)	2

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