



Summary

Alex Salmond's insistence that an independent Scotland could join the EU automatically has been further undermined as Herman Van Rompuy's aides made clear that he believes that if Scotland votes for independence in 2014, it would have to re-apply for EU membership (Times, UK, 5/11). He warned Alex Salmond that Scotland would have to reapply for membership and that it would be a "difficult" process because of objections by other EU members. Labour's Shadow Scottish Secretary Margaret Curran said: "*We agree with the European Council president in his belief that the best way to tackle the problems we face is by binding together, not breaking apart. When you look at the reports that Cyprus will want Scotland to join the queue for the EU, the SNP's claims that we will simply walk straight in are more ridiculous by the day.*" (dailyrecord.co.uk, UK, 5/11). A former head of the British Diplomatic Service yesterday warned that an independent Scotland's entry into the EU would depend on the "mood" of Spain who might want to make the point to the Catalan Independence Movement that entry into Europe would be a struggle. "*It is my firm view that if Scotland leaves the union of these islands, it has left the EU,*" Lord Kerr told Scotland on Sunday. (scotsman.com, UK, 4/11).

- Times, UK, 5/11, (no link available)
- dailyrecord.co.uk, UK, 5/11, <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-face-new-independence-blow-1417452>
- scotsman.com, UK, 4/11, <http://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-independence-spain-key-to-scotland-s-eu-hopes-1-2613465>

On secession in general, Van Rompuy said "*Nobody has anything to gain from separatism in the world of today which, whether one likes it or not, is globalised*" adding "*We have so many important challenges to take and we will only succeed if we can pool forces, join action, take common directions. The global financial crisis is hitting us hard. Climate change is threatening the planet. How can separatism help? The word of the future is union.*" (elcomercio.es, ES, 4/11).

- elcomercio.es, ES, 4/11, <http://www.elcomercio.es/rc/20121104/mas-actualidad/nacional/rompuy-catalua-nadie-obtendr-201211040911.html>

In an opinion piece the *Suddeutsche-Zeitung* reports that Brussels raises doubts over whether Croatia's administration is able to implement EU law. Critics in Berlin even claim Croatia is not ready to join the EU. Additionally, the critics seek to stop the enlargement process arguing that the EU does not have any time to deal with weak democracies and corrupt lawyers adding that whilst José Manuel Barroso underlined Croatia's reform progress in the area of justice a year ago, the country continues to face scandals. (*Suddeutsche-Zeitung*, DE, 5/11). The U.S. Secretary of State however said "I look forward to Croatia's accession to the EU" (stockwatch.com.cy, CY, 5/11).

- *Suddeutsche-Zeitung*, DE, 5/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121105/mi/item_139060623.pdf
- stockwatch.com.cy, CY, 5/11, http://www.stockwatch.com.cy/nqcontent.cfm?a_name=news_view&ann_id=160917

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) is also in the news following a report that since 2005, the 'small country' is officially a candidate to join the EU, but still on the waiting list due to a dispute with Greece (Razon-Spain, ES, 5/11). On relations with Bulgaria Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the fYRoM, has sent an open letter to his Bulgarian counterpart, Nikolay Mladenov, inviting him for talks with the aim of improving bilateral relations (Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 4/11).

- Razon-Spain, ES, 5/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121105/mi/item_139078719.pdf
- Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 4/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121104/mi/item_139058345.pdf

Key Quotes

The countries of the European Union could try to force an independent Scotland to join the euro currency as the price of membership, two former SNP leaders have warned (Herald Scotland, UK, 6/11)

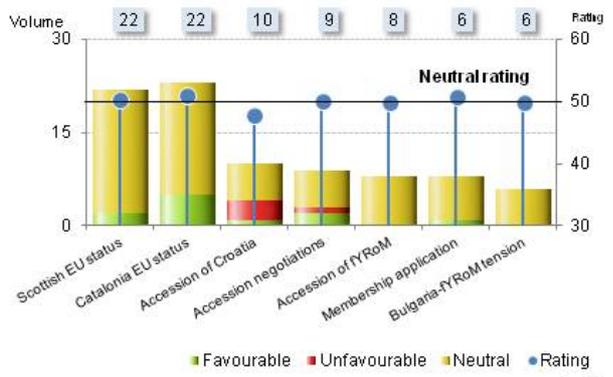
<http://www.heraldsotland.com/politics/referendum-news/independent-scotland-could-be-forced-to-join-euro-say-snp-ex-leaders.19341205>

Almunia said that an independent Catalonia will not belong to the EU (Diario de León, Spain, 6/11)

<http://www.diariodeleon.es/noticias/espana/almunia-afirma-que-una-cataluna-independiente-no-pertenecera-a-ue.740467.html>

Charts

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

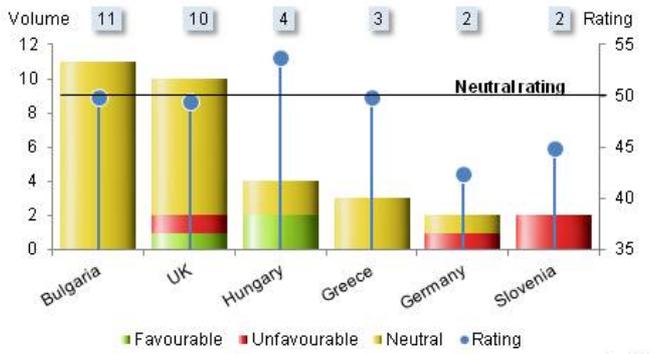


ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	56 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	12.5%
Unfavourable %	7.1%
Neutral %	80.4%

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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
Herman van Rompuy (President of the European Council)	21
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	19
Lord Kerr of Kinlochard (Politician, UK)	13
Artur Mas (President of the Generalitat de Catalunya)	12
Tsvetan Tsvetanov (Interior Minister, Bulgaria)	5
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	4
Nikolay Mladenov (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	4