



## Key Quotes

Potential EU Expansion Angers Brits. Pryce Warner International Group comment on an article published in the Telegraph on June 24th 2014. Albania recently made fantastic progress in its plight to become a member of the European Union (EU). 28 EU member states including the UK voted favourably for the Eastern European country's candidacy to be formally recognised and inherently, for Albania's eventual EU membership. Although the process could take many years to finalise, some fearful Brits already expect to see 3m or more Albanians moving to the UK. Director of Operations at leading international investment specialists Pryce Warner International Group David Retikin offered further insight into the situation: ***"EU membership simply isn't granted overnight and although the scepticism of the British public is plausible, it's also far too soon to justify. Essential decisions ranging from law and order to finance and infrastructure will all play a key role in shaping Albania's future. One thing that's become apparent in the past twelve months is the small number of Bulgarian and Romanian immigrants that came into the UK. The vision painted by a multitude of sceptics depicted immigrant hordes flocking into Britain to take our jobs and ravage our benefits system, which simply wasn't the case"*** (uk.prweb.com, UK, 30/6).

<http://uk.prweb.com/releases/eu/uk/prweb11977875.htm>

## Summary

### The entry of Serbia into the EU is a mutual interest

Serbia has a lot of work before joining the EU; The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, who arrived in Serbia on Sunday afternoon, said Brussels sees Serbia as a reliable partner and a pillar of stability and cooperation in south-western Balkans, adding that Serbia has made "big progress" in its European integration. The Serbian Prime Minister Aleksander Vučić underscored that Serbia is seriously and deeply committed to the work which should preserve it on the right track on the EU path and bring it closer to full EU membership (Jutarnji-list, HR, 30/6). Barroso says the EU is impressed, though not surprised, with the professionalism and high quality of the Serbian negotiating team (Novi-List, HR, 30/6). The Daily Mail (UK, 30/6) reports that Serbia is to offer the former EU Commissioner and UK Minister Lord Mandelson a lucrative advisory contract to help the country join the EU – because Tony Blair is considered 'too expensive'.

- Jutarnji-list, HR, 30/6, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140630/mi/item\\_204839248.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140630/mi/item_204839248.pdf)
- Novi-List, HR, 30/6, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140630/mi/item\\_204851100.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140630/mi/item_204851100.pdf)
- Daily Mail, UK, 30/6, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2674476/Serbia-hire-Mandelson-adviser-help-country-join-EU-Blair-costs-much.html>

### Albania, the latest candidate EU member

De Standaard (BE, 30/6) writing about Albania, notes that since the election of Prime Minister Edi Rama, efforts have been made to weed out corruption and organised crime as he profiles himself as a leader looking for change. He has appointed several young ministers, including Erion Veliaj, a former activist for better governance in addition Mr Rama receives advice from Tony Blair. In recent years, the Albanian economy has grown strongly, though the profits have mainly ended up in a limited circle. In Albania, politicians and their critics agree on one thing: the EU should not be frightened of accepting an Islamic country in its midst.

- De Standaard, BE, 30/6, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140630/mi/item\\_204853966.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140630/mi/item_204853966.pdf)

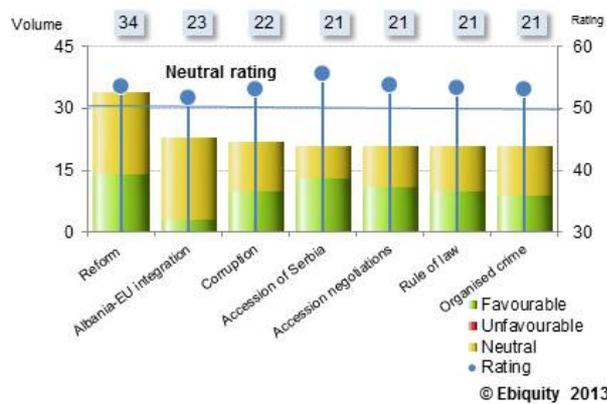
### EC President on enlargement

Speaking to the Albanian Parliament José Manuel Barroso, said that the European perspective of the countries of South Eastern Europe is not just a paper exercise. It is real. The EU's commitment to this perspective remains firm. EU enlargement remains high on the agenda. And we stick to our promises when our partners make progress. The rightful aspiration of so many nations to become members of the European Union has been part and parcel of our common quest to consolidate democracy, foster stability and achieve prosperity together. And this has always been a genuine free choice. The Member States have freely agreed to share a community based on law, and to build the biggest internal market in the world. No country has been forced to join or stay against the collective will of its citizens (neurope.eu, BE, 30/6).

- neurope.eu, BE, 30/6, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/barroso-praised-progress-albania>

## Charts

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	15
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	14
Bernard-Henri Levy (French writer)	8
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Tony Blair (Former Prime Minister, UK)	5
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	3

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