



## Summary

Joaquín Almunia, the Competition Commissioner, warned Catalonia that separating from Spain would leave it outside the EU (ABC, ES, 6/11), saying "If a part of the territory of a Member State is separated, it remains outside the European Union and should start the process for accession" (lagazzettadelmezzogiorno.it, IT, 5/11). Artur Mas, President of the Generalitat de Catalunya, admitted yesterday that an independent Catalonia would be outside the EU (Mundo, ES, 6/11). In Catalonia itself according to an opinion poll published on Sunday in Catalan newspaper el Periódico, 50.9 % of the region's people favour an independent Catalan state - though that number falls to 40.1 % if independence would mean leaving the EU (Scotsman, UK, 6/11). Politicians from anti-independence parties from Scotland and Spain are to meet in order to agree a formal collaboration aimed at co-ordinating arguments against an independent Scotland and Catalonia remaining members of the European Union. Although there has been no ruling from the European Commission on the status of an independent Scotland or Catalonia, the Partido Popular hopes to gain enough support from fellow conservatives to force the issue in the European Parliament, and achieve a vote in favour of imposing their preferred position (newsnetscotland.com, UK, 5/11).

- ABC, ES, 6/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item\\_139164359.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item_139164359.pdf)
- lagazzettadelmezzogiorno.it, IT, 5/11, <http://www.lagazzettadelmezzogiorno.it/notizia.php?IDNotizia=566186&IDCategoria=2686>
- Mundo, ES, 6/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item\\_139164362.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item_139164362.pdf)
- Scotsman, UK, 6/11 (no link available)
- newsnetscotland.com, UK, 5/11, <http://newsnetscotland.com/index.php/scottish-news/6188-anti-independence-parties-plot-to-expel-independent-scotland-from-the-eu>

Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg said that Serbia could always rely on Czech support in its endeavours towards the European Union after a meeting with his Serbian counterpart Ivan Mrkic on Monday (Pravo, CZ, 6/11). Catherine Ashton has invited the prime ministers of Serbia and Kosovo for fresh talks on their relationship (focus-news.net, BG, 5/11). The European Union has said progress in the talks is a crucial condition for Serbia's bid to join the bloc (rferl.org, CZ, 5/11).

- Pravo, CZ, 6/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item\\_139155359.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item_139155359.pdf)
- focus-news.net, BG, 5/11, <http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1714483>
- rferl.org, CZ, 5/11, <http://www.rferl.org/content/eu-host-serbia-kosovo-meeting/24761634.html>

Concerning the rule of law, at a press conference on Monday, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov noted that Judge Veneta Markovska should resign from her position in the Constitutional Court, if the allegations against her are found to be true. His comment comes after the scandal with the newly-elected Constitutional Judge escalated with the European Commission's confirmation that Bulgaria could indeed be subject to an extraordinary CVM report. Earlier on Monday, EC Spokesperson Pia Hansen refuted Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetanov's claims that Olivier Bailly was not speaking on behalf of the EC when warning last week about a possible report (Sega-Daily, BG, 6/11). The European Commission set out its concerns over allegations of trading influence against one of the candidates for the Constitutional Court according to EC Spokesperson Mark Gray in a BNR interview. It is now for the Bulgarian authorities to decide how to move forward. At this stage, there is no plan for an additional report on Bulgaria, but the option exists and the EC will judge on the basis of events whether such a report is required (Bulgarian-National-Radio, 5/11).

- Sega-Daily, BG, 6/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item\\_139156881.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121106/mi/item_139156881.pdf)
- Bulgarian-National-Radio, 5/11

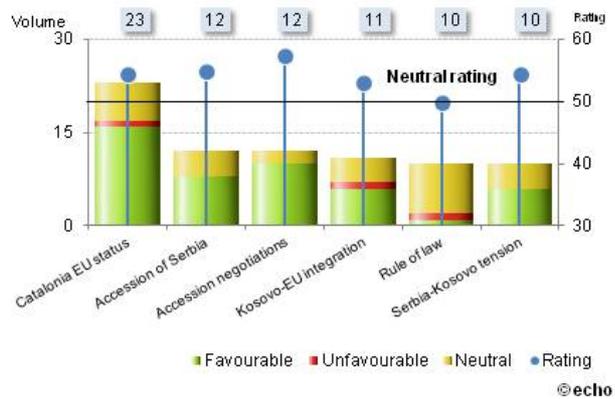
## Key Quotes

**Mr Cameron and the coalition government again came under criticism from back-bench Tory eurosceptics, who used bills on European banking union and Croatian accession to push for the government to grab powers back from the EU** (The Scotsman, UK, 7/11).

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/eu-blunders-and-waste-on-the-rise-as-brussels-demands-bigger-budget-1-2617478>

## Charts

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

Volume	53 items
Rating	53
Favourable %	49.1%
Unfavourable %	5.7%
Neutral %	45.2%

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by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Joaquín Almunia (Commissioner for Competition, EC)	19
Artur Mas (President of the Generalitat de Catalunya)	8
Mica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Olivier Bailly (EC spokesperson, Growth and Jobs)	6