



Summary

A new round of dialogue between Belgrade and Priština which took place yesterday under the auspices of the EU was reported that morning by sta.si, (SI, 7/11) in an article that expected the prime ministers of Serbia and Kosovo to join European Union foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton for fresh talks over normalising ties between Belgrade and its former province. Catherine Ashton commented afterwards *"Our open and frank discussions this evening evolved around different aspects of normalisation of relations between the two sides and both prime ministers committed to continue the talks,"* (Yahoo!, UK, 8/11). The EU said progress in the talks is a crucial condition for Serbia's bid to join the bloc (rferl.org, CZ, 7/11). Ivica Dacic said before his departure, that the government is ready to compromise in order to normalise relations, but it is *"absolutely impossible"* to recognise Kosovo's independence (Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 7/11). Serbia would like to join the European Union during the Greek EU Presidency in the first half of 2014, stated Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and explained that EU membership is a choice of strategic importance for his country, which would nevertheless not enfeeble its traditional very strong ties with Russia (dnevnik.bg, BG, 6/11).

- sta.si, SI, 7/11, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1817941>
- Yahoo! UK, 8/11, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-premiers-hold-useful-second-round-talks-000651337.html>
- rferl.org, CZ, 7/11, <http://www.rferl.org/content/eu-hosts-second-serbia-kosovo-meeting/24763376.html>
- Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 7/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121107/mi/item_139258367.pdfwas_report
- dnevnik.bg, BG, 6/11, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2012/11/06/1941161_surbii_a_iska_da_stane_chlen_na_es_pri/?ref=rss

Sweden is to ratify Croatia's EU accession treaty on Wednesday (newpost.gr, EL, 6/11) and in the UK David Lidington, the Minister for Europe, said in his blog *"Two decades on, Croatia is a country at peace and benefitting from record levels of prosperity. It is among the most popular tourist destinations in Europe, with a higher GDP per capita than some existing EU states and inflation below the EU average. EU membership is a hugely significant step for Croatia. But this is also the latest step in the process of enlargement which has transformed our continent and has reunited what Margaret Thatcher in 1990 called 'wider Europe'"*. Vesna Pusic, Croatia's Foreign Minister, says that the prospect of EU membership has helped the country to build its institutions and stabilise its state (blogs.fco.gov.uk, UK, 6/11).

- newpost.gr, EL, 6/11, <http://newpost.gr/post/166362/i-soyidia-epikyroni-tin-entaksi-tis-kroatias-stin-evropaiki-enosi/>
- blogs.fco.gov.uk, UK, 6/11, <http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/davidlidington/2012/11/06/croatia-and-why-eu-enlargement-matters/>

The ratification of Croatia's accession treaty has allowed the position of the UK in the EU to be looked at once more. Mr Cameron and the coalition government again came under criticism from Tory eurosceptics, who used bills on European banking union and Croatian accession to push for the government to grab powers back from the EU (Scotsman, UK, 7/11).

- Scotsman, UK, 7/11 (no link available)

Also in the UK, politicians, Gordon Wilson and Jim Sillars argued that *"Mere assertions by the Scottish Government that there will be a seamless transition from part of the British state to full member state status need validation."* They said it served the interests of the UK Government and those campaigning against independence to spread confusion which explains London's refusal to seek a defining legal opinion. Only the UK Government can request the view of the European Commission on Scotland's place in the EU post-independence, but no such request is likely to be made. Mr Wilson and Mr Sillars are now urging the Scottish Government to request that UK ministers ask the Commission, based on legal advice, on what a vote for independence will mean for Scotland's membership of the EU (ayrshirepost.net, UK, 6/11).

- ayrshirepost.net, K,6/11, <http://www.ayrshirepost.net/ayrshire-news/scottish-news/2012/11/06/eu-assertions-must-be-validated-102545-32176249/>

Key Quotes

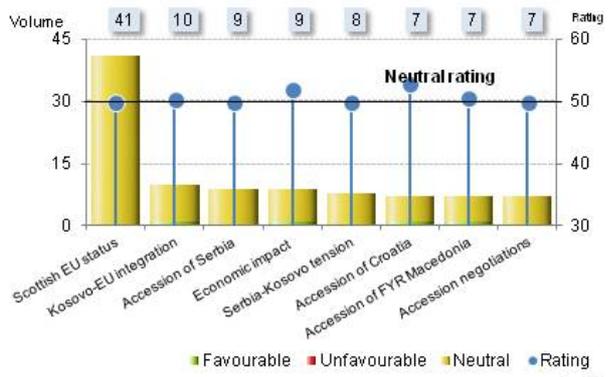
Vecer: EC welcomes Macedonia's response to Greek memorandum. ***"As we all know, there is a need of dialogue and mutual understanding in order to register progress in the name dispute between Macedonia and Greece. Thus we welcome this exchange of positions between the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and Greece,"*** Stano remarked (Focus News, Bulgaria, 8/11) <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n291767>

"Our open and frank discussions this evening evolved around different aspects of normalisation of relations between the two sides and both prime ministers committed to continue the talks," said European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton (Yahoo!, UK, 8/11) <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-premiers-hold-useful-second-round-talks-000651337.html>

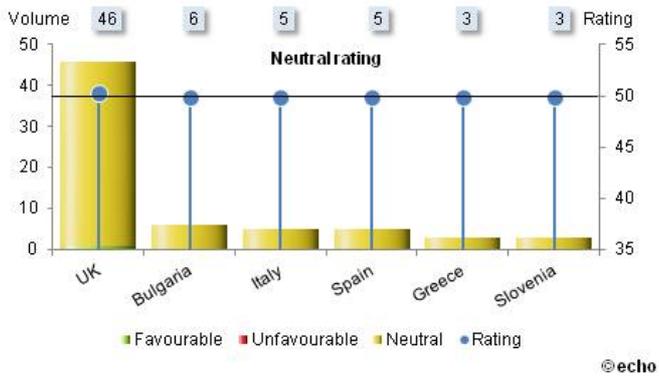
The European Commission (EC) and Turkey in Brussels yesterday discussed possible ways to restart the process of accession to the EU, which have been stalled in recent years (Diario de León, Spain, 8/11) http://www.diariodeleon.es/noticias/internacional/impulsan-de-nuevo-adhesion-turca-a-ue_741046.html

Charts

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Volume	75 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	96%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Gordon Wilson (Former SNP leader, Scotland)	38
Jim Sillars (Member of Parliament, UK)	38
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	37
Jackson Carlaw (Member of Parliament, Scotland)	37
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	7
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	6
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6

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