



Key Quotes

On Tuesday, the eight Balkan heads of state were to meet together with German Chancellor Merkel to review the region's further approach to the EU. It will be the second meeting of its kind and the initiative was launched last year jointly by Croatia and Slovenia, both EU members. **"The arrival of Chancellor Merkel ... shows that Europe is interested, recognising in its members Croatia and Slovenia the leading forces of European politics towards the region,"** Croatian President Ivo Josipović told reporters. **"No one is excluded, everyone is welcome but of course everyone has to meet certain conditions,"** Josipović concluded (eubusiness.com, UK, 15/7).

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/croatia-balkans.x1t/>

Summary

US visit to Kosovo and Serbia

The political and constitutional crisis in Kosovo has led to a visit on Sunday of the assistant secretary of the US Department of State, Victoria Nuland. The senior US diplomat has brought clear messages to the Kosovar politicians about the talks with Serbia and the creation of the new government. In the meetings with President Atifete Jahjaga, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi and two opposition leaders, Isa Mustafa and Ramush Haradinaj, Nuland has pushed for an immediate creation of a stable government and the start of the talks with Serbia (balkaneu.com, GR, 14/7). After a meeting with Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić in Belgrade Nuland said **"The United States is impressed with the progress here in Serbia - the elections, your progress as an EU candidate which the U.S. strongly supports, and now starting from 2015 your assumption of the very important role of chairman office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe"** (neurope.eu, BE, 14/7).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 14/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/nuland-pushes-continuation-talks-serbia-stable-government/>
- neurope.eu, BE, 14/7, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/us-expresses-satisfaction-serbias-progress>

Political tension in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The cross ethnic recent protests and political tension in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are jeopardizing the process of the integration of the country in the NATO and EU. This warning comes from the international community, which has pushed sides to remain calm and restore dialogue in order to overcome problems in the country and not to jeopardize the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. Within a two week period, the European Union, USA, NATO and OSCE have expressed their concern about the political developments in the country. Western diplomats such as US ambassador Paul Wohlers and the EU ambassador, Aivo Orav have intensified meetings with political leaders in the country in order to lower tensions. Analysts say that in spite of the fact that cross ethnic relations are not a formal criteria for the accession of the country in the international institutions, they are a basis for the stability of the country. In his recent appearances, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski has said that dangerous segments have their scenarios and agendas to destabilize the country, but according to him, this will not be allowed (balkaneu.com, GR, 14/7)

- balkaneu.com, GR, 14/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ethnic-protests-tensions-jeopardizing-euro-atlantic-integration/>

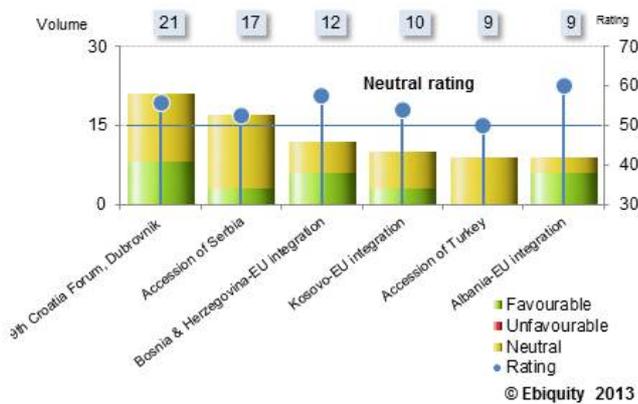
Turkish Accession

Italy's EU presidency will accelerate talks on Turkey's bid to join the bloc, the country's Europe minister said Sunday. Sandro Gozi said that his government is determined to advance Ankara's membership talks, a step which will count among Italy's priorities for its six-month EU chairmanship (euobserver.com, BE, 14/7)

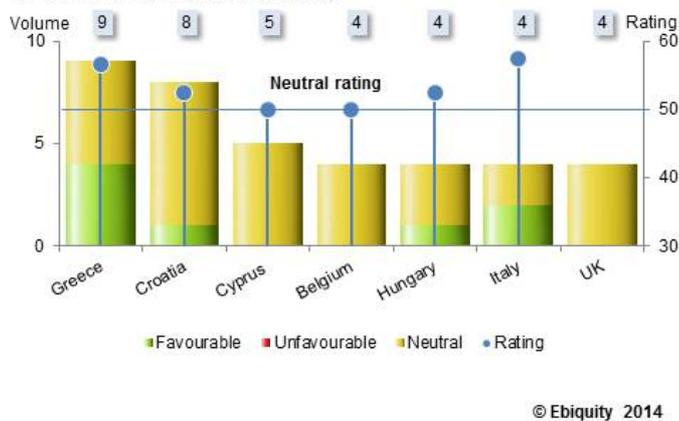
- euobserver.com, BE, 14/7, <http://euobserver.com/tickers/124966>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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Volume	42 items
Rating	52.9
Favourable %	19%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	81%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Foreign Minister, Serbia)	7
Alexei Meshkov (Deputy Foreign Minister, Russia)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	5
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	4
Victoria Nuland (Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Department of State, US)	4

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