



Key Quotes

German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to settle their decades old dispute over the latter's name, even if it's not satisfactory for both. **"We can find a way to solve this problem,"** Merkel said at the annual meeting of the Brdo-Brijuni Process between leaders of South Eastern European countries. **"I have spent time on this issue and the names and possible combinations but sometimes I think there is nothing else to be proposed"** (thetoc.gr, GR, 16/7).

<http://www.thetoc.gr/eng/news/article/german-chancellor-urges-greece--fyrom-to-settle>

Summary

Angela Merkel supportive of the Balkans

German chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) has promised the Balkan countries her support on their path towards accession to the European Union. At a summit meeting between the former member states of Yugoslavia and Albania in Dubrovnik, Croatia, this Tuesday, the chancellor said that Germany would support the European perspectives of all countries in this region (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 16/7). Tuesday's summit stressed the urgent need for the resolution of outstanding bilateral and multilateral, and regional issues in the Western Balkans. Also there was a policy debate on energy security and energy efficiency and energy plans for the future development of the region, which was attended by the European Commissioner Günther Oettinger (Delo, SI, 16/7).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 16/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140716/mi/item_206840219.pdf
- Delo, SI, 16/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140716/mi/item_206831307.pdf

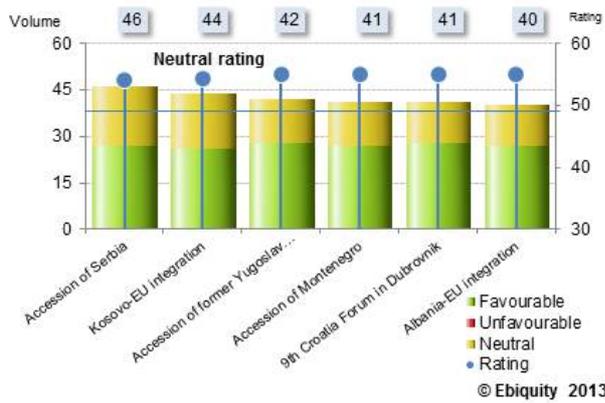
Why an enlargement freeze?

Key questions need to be asked about the new EU president's enlargement freeze. First, why has Jean-Claude Juncker announced this? The recent European election saw a substantial, populist, backlash against the European project. Immigration and the free movement of EU citizens are closely bound up with that. Most of the potential candidates for EU membership are either relatively poor (Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia) or politically controversial (Turkey). Potential membership by any would be a lightning rod. There is also a general sense of enlargement fatigue amongst many EU states. Second, is Juncker's announcement sensible? The prospect of membership is widely considered to be the EU's most effective foreign policy tool. It can transform national economies and political systems through the promise of access in exchange for implementing reform. By making membership a more distant prospect, Juncker runs the risk of further deceleration of reforms in the candidate countries (Scotsman, UK, 16/7).

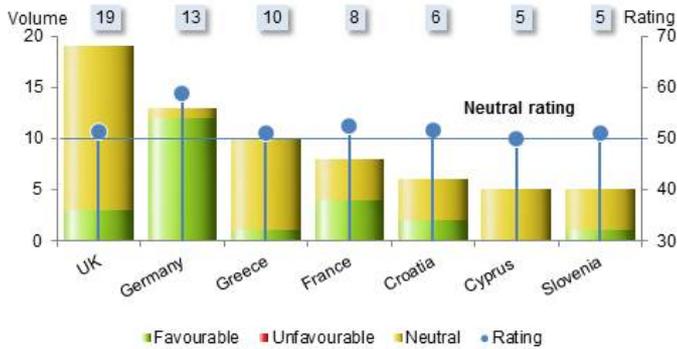
- Scotsman, UK, 16/7, [Link not available]

Charts

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Jean Claude Juncker (Future President, EC)	31
Borut Pahor (President, Slovenia)	16
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	15
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	8
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	7

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