



Key Quotes

José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, and Štefan Füle, in charge of Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, will attend the Balkans Conference in Berlin. **"The goal is to reiterate the support of the European Union (EU) accession process of the Western Balkans"**, said the EC spokesman Jonathan Todd (es.noticias.yahoo.com, ES, 26/8). <https://es.noticias.yahoo.com/barroso-merkel-reunir%C3%A1n-jueves-berl%C3%ADn-112223647.html>

Summary

Progress in Serbia

So far, 2014 has been an important year for Serbia and its path towards membership of the EU. Membership negotiations began on 21 January; in March, parliamentary elections resulted in a national assembly composed entirely of pro-European parties and MPs, both on the government side and in the opposition. The new government, headed by Aleksandar Vučić, announced a very ambitious economic reform agenda - aiming specifically to curb the budget deficit, complete the privatisation process and amend systemic laws, such as those on labour, liquidation procedures and privatisation, as well as measures designed to cut red tape and to attract foreign investment. Even though Serbia had some positive economic developments in 2013, such as a 26 per cent increase in exports and a 25 per cent decrease in the foreign trade deficit, this was largely overshadowed by the imbalance in public finances, the rise of external debt, and the persistently high level of unemployment. Problems were amplified by this year's massive floods that hit several countries in the Balkans in May, to which the European commission reacted, with the help of France and Slovenia, by organising a donors' conference for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. (theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 26/8).

- theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 26/8, <https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/feature/eu-membership-remains-top-priority-serbian-government>

Balkan meeting

The Prime Ministers of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Montenegro met in Croatia on Monday on regional cooperation, ahead of a conference on the Western Balkans organized by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. During the meeting in the southern Croatian town of Cavtat, the Prime Ministers discussed the cooperation in joint economic and transport projects, especially the Adriatic-Ionian highway which is supposed to connect Western Europe and Greece through their countries. The regional leaders agreed that the highway, which will require outside funding, is a priority that will help all their economies. (neurope.eu, BE, 25/8).

- neurope.eu, BE, 25/8, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/balkan-pms-meet-croatia-regional-cooperation>

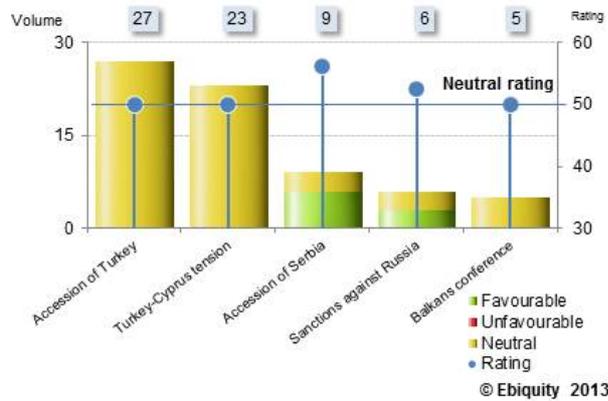
Turkey Cyprus tension

The Cypriot government said yesterday it would denounce Turkey to the UN and the EU over the actions of its research vessel Barbaros, which was heading for the waters off the north coast ahead of the visit to the breakaway state by Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan on Monday next. Government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said that while the Greek Cypriot side was looking for ways to move the stalled Cyprus negotiations forward and to overcome the current difficulties, "the last thing that anyone would expect from Turkey is the repetition of the provocations by the ship Barbaros in the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Cyprus" (cyprus-mail.com, CY, 26/8).

- cyprus-mail.com, CY, 26/8, <http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/08/26/barbaros-visit-denounced-as-a-provocation/>

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Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	85%

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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (President, Turkey)	22
Nikos Christodoulides (Government Spokesman, Cyprus)	17
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	15
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	4
Peter Stano (Spokesperson Enlargement, EC)	3
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	3

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