



## Key Quotes

Macedonia's path from progress to problem child. Andreas Ernst, journalist and longtime south-east Europe correspondent for the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, says that "**The EU and especially Germany, who took over the caretaker role in the Balkans from the US, are too busy to be really interested in the developments here**". "**As long as leaders like Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić, Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi and Gruevski can guarantee stability, the EU does not really bother about growing illiberal tendencies. Maybe the EU enlargement commissioner does, but certainly not the capitals that are not keen on enlargement at all,**" concludes Ernst (dw.de, DE, 27/8). <http://www.dw.de/macedonias-path-from-progress-to-problem-child/a-17880976>

## Summary

### War crimes and the issue of missing should be resolved before Serbia's accession to the EU

Croatia will not allow the entry of Serbia into the European Union before "*paying*" for war crimes, a view which was endorsed by the Croatian MEPs. Žarko Puhovski, a Croatian political analyst, states that nothing can be done when it comes to punishing crimes committed by the Serbian side. EU Enlargement Commissioner Füle said Serbia must comply with commitments under the Agreement on Normalization of Relations concluded in 1996 (Vecernji-List, HR, 27/8).

- Vecernji-List, HR, 27/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140827/mi/item\\_211504250.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140827/mi/item_211504250.pdf)

### Incoming Turkish prime minister says EU membership strategic target

Incoming Turkish prime minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said on Wednesday "*membership of the European Union was a strategic target for Turkey and will be pursued decisively*." In a speech to the ruling AK Party of president-elect Tayyip Erdoğan, whom he was set to replace as party leader later on Wednesday, Davutoğlu said the "*country's foreign policy would remain multi-faceted*" (uk.reuters.com, UK, 27/8).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 27/8, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/27/uk-turkey-government-eu-idUKKBN0GR19R20140827>

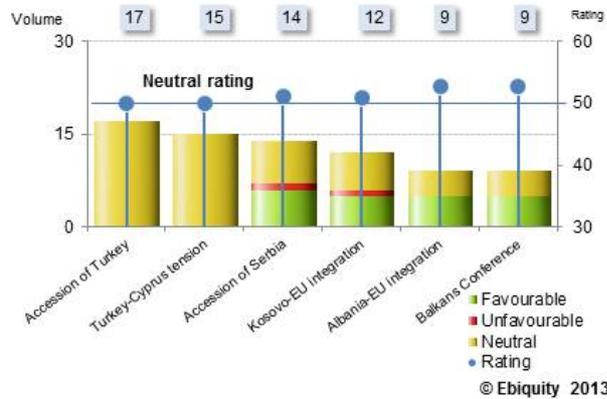
### Possible fresh elections in Kosovo

After the latest decision of the Constitutional Court to annul the election of the speaker of parliament, Kosovo may be heading for new elections. Experts of political developments said that fresh elections would leave the state without institutions and a proper government for a long time. Kosovar analyst, Vilhard Shala told IBNA that the holding of fresh elections this year shows the irresponsibility of political leaders in the country. "*If we continue with this trend, then the new year may find us without any institutions. Given the obligations that this country has about the European integration, liberalization of visas, the talks with Serbia, the creation of the Special Court, I believe that fresh elections are unnecessary. But, the current political situation doesn't leave any other option, besides extraordinary parliamentary elections*", says Shala (balkaneu.com, GR, 26/8).

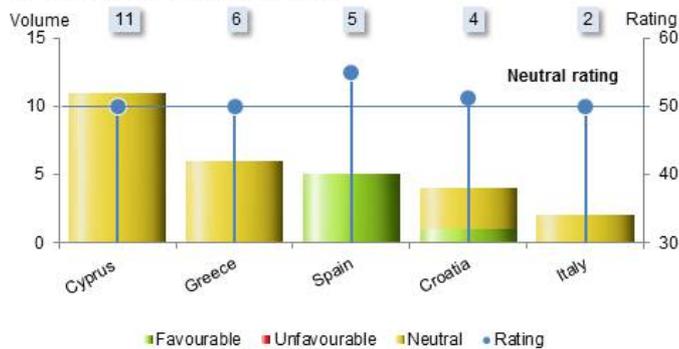
- balkaneu.com, GR, 26/8, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-heading-extraordinary-elections/>

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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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Nikos Christodoulides (Government Spokesman, Cyprus)	8
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	7
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	7
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	7

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