



Key Quotes

Turkey announces strategy to bolster EU accession bid. Turkey said crises in the Middle East and elsewhere made closer co-operation between Ankara and the European Union essential and announced a new programme to revive the country's stalled drive for EU membership. A document released by the EU Affairs Ministry described the accession process as **"the most important modernisation project after the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey"** (uk.reuters.com, UK, 18/9).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/uk-turkey-eu-membership-idUKKBN0HD1W620140918>

Summary

Serbian economy

The EBRD expects the Serbian economy to shrink by 0.5% this year, recovering to 2.0% in 2015. In the recent elections Progressive Party of Aleksandar Vučić won an absolute majority with a mandate for sweeping reform, including privatisation and changes to the labour code, but its appetite for austerity has yet to be proven. *"Serbia faces a very difficult situation in the short term, particularly the fiscal situation,"* says Peter Sanfey Deputy Director of Country Strategy and Policy at the EBRD. *"The level of the deficit [is worrying] and public debt is now somewhere between 65% and 70% of GDP and still rising, whereas it's supposed to be capped at 45%. This has been recognised by the government"*. Sanfey is upbeat about the outlook. *"I see Serbia as a country with a lot of potential in the region, they have a government with a strong mandate which can look forward to being in power for a few years.* (bne.eu, DE, 18/9).

- bne.eu, DE, 18/9, <http://www.bne.eu/content/story/ebrd-slams-lack-reform-southeast-europe-still-says-grounds-optimism>

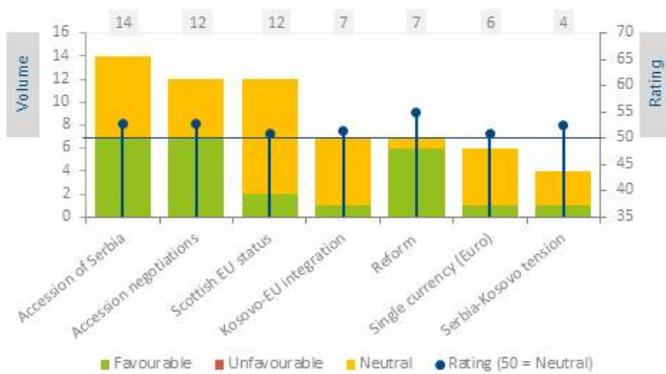
EU visa-waiver for Turkish nationals

Turkey has hinted that it will try to speed up the EU visa-waiver for Turkish nationals that had not been scheduled to come into force until at least 2016. Turkish EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkir said Turkey would focus on introducing the agreement as soon as possible. Bozkir's remarks came during his first official visit to the European Parliament on Wednesday. He said EU accession remains one of Turkey's strategic goals and Ankara *"continues to adopt political, social and economic reforms"* to achieve this. Turkey began EU entry talks in 2005 and signed an agreement to allow visa-free travel in the EU for Turkish citizens at the end of last year. However, unlike other EU accession countries such as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkish nationals have so far had to wait for the agreement to be finalised in 2016 (balkans.com, UK, 18/9).

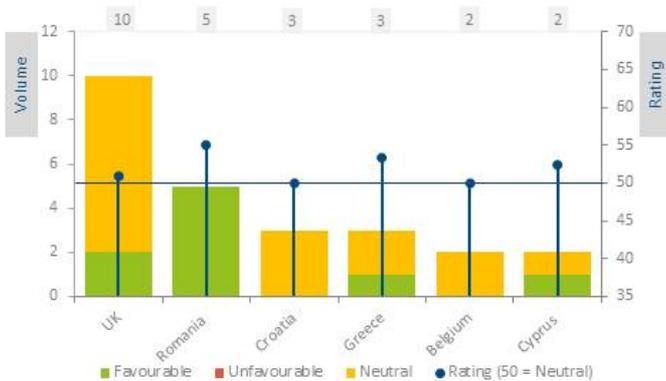
- balkans.com, UK, 18/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=197059>

Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2014

ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	28 items
Rating	52.1
Favourable %	35.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	64.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	9
Guenter Verheugen (Former European Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, EC)	6
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Ivica Dačić (Foreign Minister, Serbia)	2
Jean-Claude Juncker (President-elect, EC)	2

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.