



Key Quotes

Foreign Office Minister for Europe responds to the publication of the European Commission's Annual Enlargement Package. The Minister for Europe David Lidington said: "**The UK has long been a strong supporter of enlargement of the European Union as a driver of peace, prosperity and reform across our continent. We remain strong supporters of enlargement, provided of course that candidate countries only join the EU when they have met in full all the conditions and standards for doing so**". Mr Lidington took the opportunity of the report's publication to thank departing Commissioner Štefan Füle and welcome his successor, Commissioner designate Johannes Hahn: "**I would like to extend my warm appreciation to the departing Commissioner Štefan Füle, whose strong advocacy of enlargement and commitment to tackling "fundamentals first" in accession negotiations has ensured the enlargement process is focussed on the right priorities, such as the rule of law. He leaves a robust legacy. I welcome his successor Commissioner designate Johannes Hahn, whose stewardship will be important**" (gov.uk, UK, 8/10).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-europe-responds-to-eu-enlargement-package>

Summary

The European Commission does not plan to end accession negotiations with Turkey

Commenting on the current state of affairs in Turkey and its prospects for EU accession European Commissioner Štefan Füle said that "*Turkey needs more European engagement and not less in order to help it become a modern European country. The European Commission does not plan to end accession negotiations with Turkey.*" He stated that there were no appropriate legal measures to do so, and that "*fundamental rights and the rule of law are a core area of enlargement policy, and they must be approached resolutely in the accession process.*" Meanwhile, the European Commission has stated that it plans to open two new chapters in the accession talks (Die Welt, DE, 8/10). At the same time, he praised Ankara's ongoing efforts to settle a longstanding dispute with its Kurdish minority. "*A historic process has now started, raising hopes of putting an end to the deadly cycle of violence*" Füle wrote (Europeonline-magazine, UK, 8/10).

- Die Welt, DE, 8/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141008/mi/item_217259715.pdf
- Europeonline-magazine, UK, 8/10, http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/eu-should-expand-turkey-accession-talks-top-official-says_358550.html

Füle on Kosovo

When I joined the European Commission five years ago to deal with EU enlargement, who could have imagined that Kosovo would have made so much progress on its European path since? To start with, a major building block of our relations has been put in place this July: Kosovo has initialled a Stabilization and Association Agreement. It is not just a formality. This first contractual agreement between the EU and Kosovo will establish mutual rights and obligations in important areas such as trade, legislation, social cooperation, education and training. The SAA seals Kosovo's commitment to the rule of law and supports the development of Kosovo's democratic institutions. It enhances their capacity to deliver the services its citizens expect and deserve. It supports the construction of Kosovo as a common home where all communities can thrive and prosper. The EU will support Kosovo through its European journey; it is now for Kosovo to seize the opportunity (balkaneu.com, GR, 8/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 8/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/op-edconfirming-kosovos-european-perspective/>

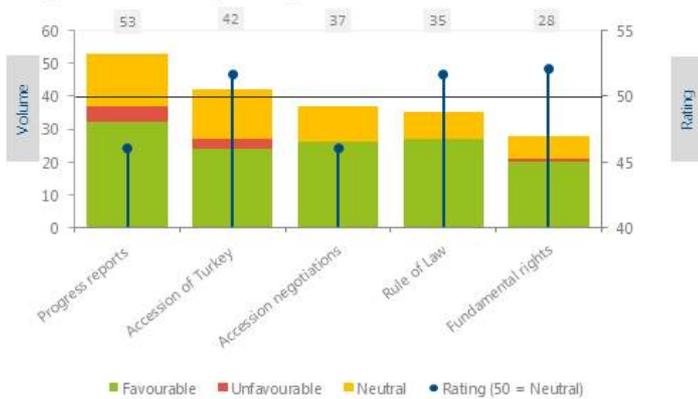
Austrians against EU enlargement

Austrians are clearly opposed to accepting new members into the EU, a new survey by the Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE) suggests. The only country whose membership application they would support is Iceland. Public perception is that the EU needs to consolidate first "says Paul Schmidt, secretary-general of the ÖGfE (Kleine Zeitung Online, AT, 8/10). This view is shared by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who announced that there would be no new members in the next five years (Die Presse, AT, 8/10).

- Kleine Zeitung Online, AT, 8/10, <http://www.kleinezeitung.at/nachrichten/politik/3760721/oesterreicher-umfrage-gegen-eu-erweiterungen.story>
- Die Presse, AT, 8/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141008/mi/item_217278605.pdf

Charts

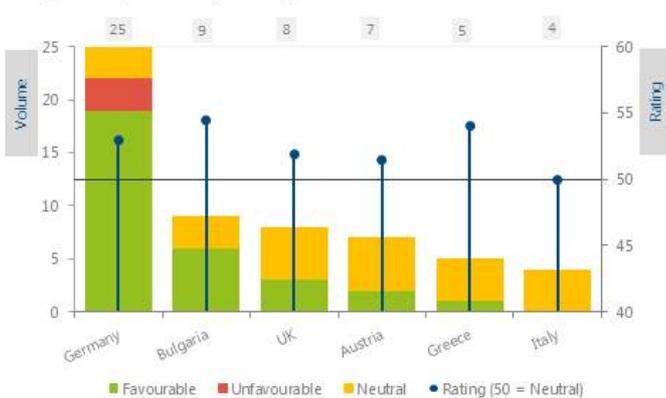
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Rating	52.5
Favourable %	52.3%
Unfavourable %	7.7%
Neutral %	40%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle - Enlargement	16
Jean-Claude Juncker - President-elect EC	6
Sebastian Kurz - FM Austria	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	3
Johannes Singhammer - German Politician	3
Catherine Day - Secretary General, EC	3

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