



Key Quotes

German agriculture minister Christian Schmidt has met with Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić and Serbian agriculture minister Snezana Bogosavljevic-Boskovic. Schmidt has supported Serbia's aspirations to join EU and stressed that 2014 has been a **"landmark year"** due to start of the accession negotiations. **"Therefore, I have eagerly offered to my Serbian colleagues, the support of German experts, for instance in using pre-accession funds,"** Schmidt said. At the same time he has stressed the importance of the further normalization of the relations between **"Serbia and Kosovo"...** **"Because it is obvious that the dynamics of the accession negotiations will largely depend on the progress of the normalization process"** (balkaneu.com, GR, 14/10). <http://www.balkaneu.com/serbias-path-eu-depends-relations-kosovo/>

Summary

Elections in Bosnia

Nationalists with little shared vision of Bosnia's future were in the lead in an election for the three-person presidency on Sunday, likely portending to more dysfunction in a country still haunted by the divisions of the 1992-95 war. Based on a partial vote-count, authorities said Bakir Izetbegović, Dragan Čović and Željka Cvijanović were out in front in the race for the tri-partite state presidency, as the Bosniak, Croat and Serb representatives respectively. Turnout was 54 percent. The presidency steers foreign policy but little else. The results, however, are an indication of the way the parliamentary elections may go too. Izetbegović campaigned on the need for a strong, unified state, Čović on the creation of a Croat entity within Bosnia, while Cvijanović is part of a Serb bloc that advocates Bosnia's dissolution (uk.reuters.com, UK, 13/10). In Svenska Dagbladet (SE, 13/10) Tomas Lundin writes that no one appears able or willing to come to grips with corruption that benefits the elite adding that many are warning of political apathy that risks turning into extremism.

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 13/10, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/10/12/uk-bosnia-election-idUKKCN0I107Y20141012>
- Svenska Dagbladet, SE, 13/10, [Link not available]

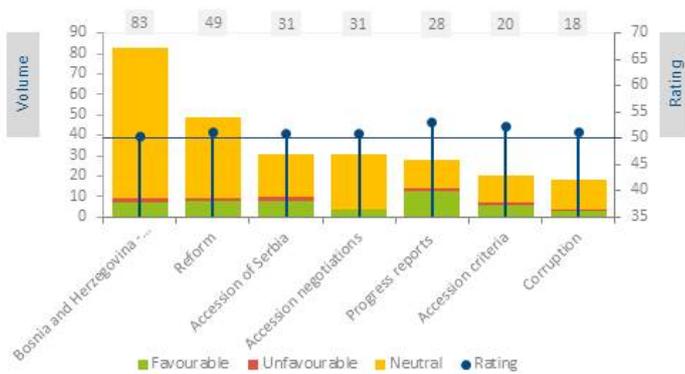
Serbian reaction to its progress report

This year's progress report on Serbia resulted in an unusual domestic reaction. Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić contested claims by the European Commission about media freedom, at the height of a scandal over the removal of political talk shows from influential TV channels. Vučić said that he would have graded Serbia even worse than the European Commission in some areas citing the judiciary, saying that almost no verdicts in Serbia came into legal effect (EurActiv.com, BE, 13/10). In addition Wirtschaftsblatt (AT, 13/10) reports that Serbian lawyers are on strike because of changes made; Serbia introduced notaries-public to the country and they are taking over most of the business that had previously been done by courts and lawyers. The EU too, is unhappy with the way how the notaries-public were introduced and a further recommendation is that the number of notaries-public has to be increased in order to meet the demand. Just under 100 notaries-public operate in Serbia at the moment. By contrast, there are 9 000 lawyers."

- EurActiv.com, BE, 13/10, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/mixed-reactions-serbia-commission-report-309107>
- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 13/10, [Link not available]

Charts

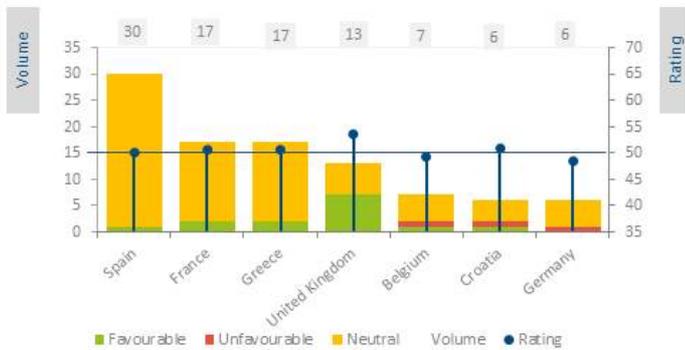
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	120 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	16.7%
Unfavourable %	2.5%
Neutral %	80.8%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Bakir Izetbegović, Presidential candidate BiH	32
Dragan Čović - Presidential candidate BiH	14
Željka Cvijanović - Presidential candidate BiH	14
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	10
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	8
Sebastian Kurz - Austrian FM	7

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2014

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