



Summary

The EU welcomed Kosovo's membership of the European Bank for reconstruction and development (EBRD). In a joint statement the EU High Representative for foreign and security policy, Catherine Ashton, EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn and EU enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle welcomed this success. *"We welcome this decision by the Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This will allow Kosovo to benefit from greater financing and will contribute to promoting Kosovo's socio-economic development. This is another step that will help Kosovo tackle the challenges on its European path. We will work closely with the EBRD to ensure maximum impact of our respective support for the benefit of the people of Kosovo."* read the joint statement. (Focus News, Bulgaria, 19/11).

- Focus News.net, BG, 19/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121116/mi/item_140149585.pdf

Serbia's prime minister Ivica Dačić who visited Berlin invited by the East and Central Europe Association (OMV), lobbied for the start of EU accession talks, saying it is one of the big goals of his administration (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 16/11). In an interview for Dnevnik, he spoke mostly about Serbia's move towards EU integration. When asked about his proposal to divide the north of Kosovo, Mr Dačić said that the talks were currently limited to the implementation of the reached agreements, not the status of Kosovo. He said that it was no longer Kosovo politicians who were making demands, but the Serbs living in the north of Kosovo, and that Pristina had to do something to improve their situation. He also quoted European Parliament President Martin Schulz, who said that it was immoral of the EU to pressure Serbia to recognize Kosovo while five of its own members have not yet done so. Mr Dačić said that Serbia had made significant progress and that the country was right to expect positive signals from the EC instead of hints on the possible suspension of the liberalisation of visa regime (Dnevnik, SI, 16/11).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 16/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121116/mi/item_140162116.pdf
- Dnevnik, SI, 16/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121116/mi/item_140149585.pdf

A war crimes court in The Hague has overturned the convictions of two Croatian generals charged with atrocities against Serbs in the 1990s. Appeals judges ordered the release of Ante Gotovina and Mladen Markac. The men arrived in Zagreb later on Friday to a hero's welcome, but their release was condemned in Serbia. Meanwhile, Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolic condemned the verdict as *"political"*, saying it *"will open old wounds"*. The European Union made it clear to former Yugoslav republics that they will not be considered for membership until war criminals were brought to justice (bbc.co.uk, UK, 16/11).

- bbc.co.uk, UK, 16/11, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20352187>

Key Quotes

Barroso warned that in the case of the region gaining independence, Catalonia would have to negotiate EU membership from scratch (Népszava, Hungary, 19/11).

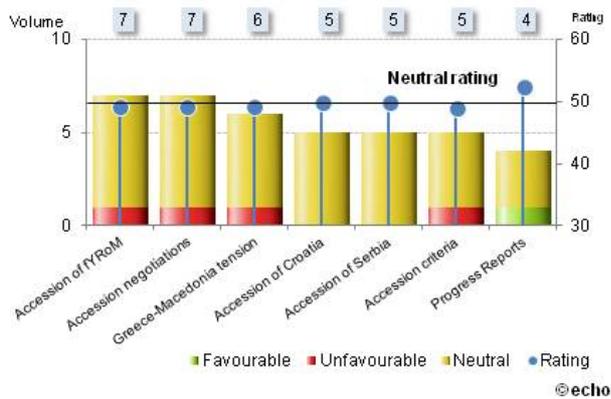
http://www.nepszava.hu/articles/article.php?id=600935&referer_id=friss#null

"Greece, which by tradition blocks Macedonia's integration, does not find itself in a too favourable position with regard to the crisis, but still managed to form a tripartite coalition to delay the European ambitions of Macedonia, which has arguments with Athens and Bulgaria, but nothing special with Romania" (Focus News, Bulgaria, 19/11).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n292665>

Charts

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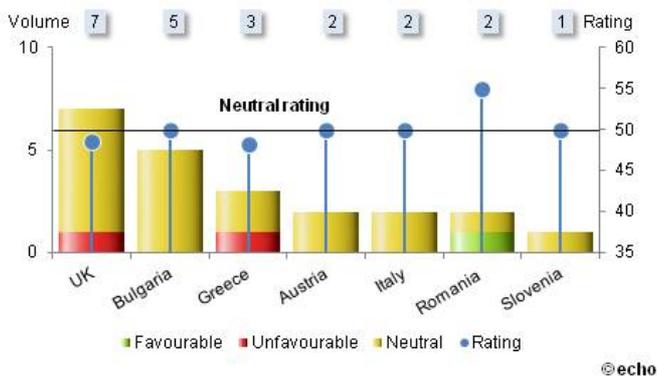


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Volume	22 items
Rating	49.8
Favourable %	4.6%
Unfavourable %	9.1%
Neutral %	86.3%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EC)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	2
Matthew Nimitz (Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Greece-FYRoM talks, UN)	2
Traian Băsescu (President, Romania)	2
Victor Ponta (Prime Minister, Romania)	2

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