



Key Quotes

Statement by Ambassador Tatham of the UK Mission to the UN: "***The United Kingdom remains committed to the progress of both Kosovo and Serbia towards membership of the European Union. The normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia is integral to both countries' European Union accession paths and, as we have said before, full implementation of the Dialogue agreement is necessary to unlock progress***" (gov.uk, UK, 4/12).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uk-remains-committed-to-the-progress-of-both-kosovo-and-serbia-towards-membership-of-the-european-union>

Summary

Hahn comments on the name dispute

Even without further EU enlargement over the next five years, accession prospects drive long overdue structural reforms and promote democratisation, said EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn, whose personal goal is to help resolve the "conflict of language" between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Hahn said he had a very close relationship with Greece during his time as Commissioner of Regional Policy. He said he would use his good relations with Greece in the "conflict of language". After 19 years of fruitless negotiations, he said concrete steps must be made to resolve the conflict which is seriously hindering the accession prospects of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (EurActiv.com, BE, 4/12).

- EurActiv.com, BE, 4/12, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-priorities-2020/hahn-enlargement-stalemate-will-not-slow-accession-negotiations-310572>

Visa requirements for Turkey

Turkish businesspeople have called for an easing of visa requirements in order to foster economic and trade. Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representatives addressed European envoys during their meeting with members of the Istanbul Consular Corps. "We see the potential membership of Turkey to the EU as the most crucial modernization project of our country by 2023, the 100th anniversary of the establishment of our republic. Turkey has made many efforts to become an EU member for the last 50 years, but the EU's approach here disappoints Turkey causing a decline in the commitment of Turkish public and business circles about the membership process" said Chamber head Erdal Bahçivan. Bahçivan said Turkey could make significant contributions to develop many sectors in Europe if visa requirements were loosened. He also noted that Turkish businesspeople have complied with the requirements of the Customs Union for 18 years, but they suffer from the heavy visa requirements they face (Balkans.com, UK, 4/12).

- Balkans.com, UK, 4/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199414>

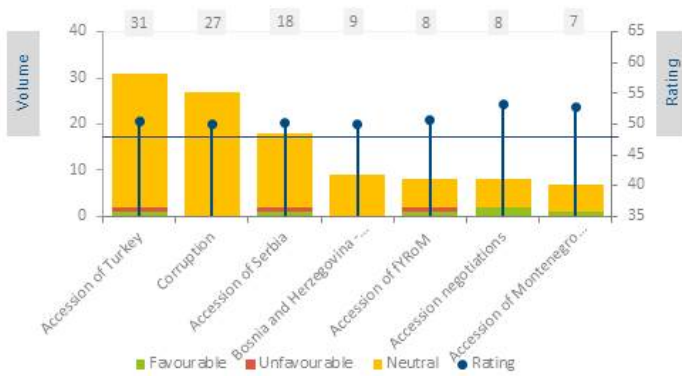
Serbia burnt by clash between Russia and the West

"Partners for the Future!" proclaim the Gazprom billboards that line the main roads into Belgrade. The adverts were meant to celebrate the growing energy ties between the two Slavic nations. But for a Serbian government left bitterly disappointed by the cancellation on Monday by Vladimir Putin of the giant South Stream gas pipeline project, the message is a painful reminder of what might have been. Gazprom, the state gas company, has been at the forefront of Moscow's push to expand its influence into the Balkans, a region beset with economic and political difficulties. Western leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel, have in recent weeks expressed concern that Mr Putin's ambitions to assert Russian authority stretch beyond Ukraine to the western Balkans (Financial Times, UK, 4/12).

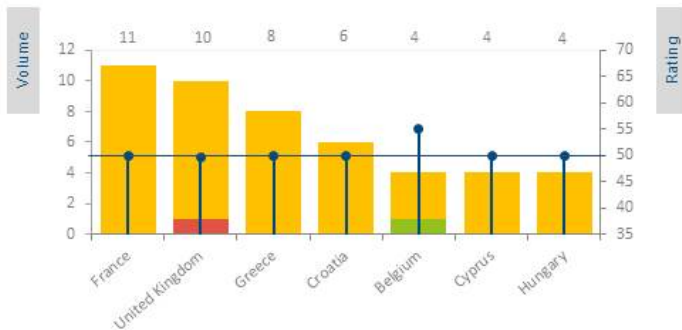
- Financial Times, UK, 4/12, [Link not available]

Charts

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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	55 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	5.5%
Unfavourable %	3.6%
Neutral %	90.9%

ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	8
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	5
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4
Volkan Bozkır - Turkey EU Affairs Minister	4
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	2
Vojislav Šešelj - Serbian politician	2

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