



## Summary

Elsevier (NL, 22/11) predicts that Bulgaria could be the next gateway to Europe for immigrants, when the country becomes a member of the Schengen free travel zone. Right now, the Turkish Greek border is a much travelled area by immigrants, but when the Bulgarian border with the EU opens up, this is likely to change. This prospect is a worry for the EU. However, also in the Netherlands the economic performance of the Balkans was commented on, with NRC-Handelsblad running an opinion piece by Dick Benschop, President Director of Shell Netherlands who claims that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe cannot be underestimated. As part of the European Union, they are a potential growth engine, growing as fast as the countries in Southeast Asia. He suggests therefore that the enlargement of the Union be at the top of the European agenda (NRC-Handelsblad, NL, 22/11).

- Elsevier, NL, 22/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121124/mi/item\\_140664509.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121124/mi/item_140664509.pdf)
- NRC-Handelsblad, NL, 22/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121121/mi/item\\_140664748.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121121/mi/item_140664748.pdf)

In Serbia since the Croatian generals Ante Gotovina and Mladen Markac were acquitted in appeal proceedings at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in Den Haag, Serbia has experienced a wave of outrage. The Serbian point of view is that, Croats are celebrating the "legalisation of ethnic cleansing". The Democratic Party (DSS) of former Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica calls on Serbs to sign a petition against continuing EU integration. Even before the acquittals, support for EU accession among the population had fallen to a record low of slightly more than 40 percent according to the Austrian Standard, 22/11. In an interview with *Wirtschaftsblatt* (AT, 22/11), Wolfgang Petritsch, Austrian ambassador to the OECD in Paris, talks amongst other things about Serbia's position with regard to the EU. He says that at present there is a return to the 1990s in Serbia and consequently attraction of the EU is declining. He points out that in particular for the political class in Serbia the EU has receded into distance.

- Standard, AT, 22/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item\\_140695839.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item_140695839.pdf)
- *Wirtschaftsblatt*, AT, 22/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item\\_140696023.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item_140696023.pdf)

In relation to Turkey, the Financial Times comments on the differing EU aspirations of the Turkish President and Prime Minister. It is a matter, President Abdullah Gül tells the Financial Times, of completing the country's transformation - and yet Turkey's bid to join the EU could hardly be more tortuous, or its outcome more uncertain. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister, once put membership at the heart of his project of government, but as EU states' reservations about Turkish membership have hardened into formal blocks on talks, so Ankara's ardour has cooled into indifference. Erdogan said "*The EU countries should also appreciate the fact that there is no substitute for Turkey; they have to recognise the contribution that Turkey can add to the EU*" (Financial-Times, UK, 22/11).

- Financial-Times, UK, 22/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item\\_140676331.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item_140676331.pdf)

In the clearest statement yet from the UK government on the post-independence position in Europe, Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said the "*weight of international legal precedent held that Scotland would have to reapply for membership*". Glasgow MP Ms McKechnin warned that "*Scotland's economy relies heavily on having a stable export market and many thousands of jobs depend on foreign trade*" (Scotsman, UK, 22/11).

- Scotsman, UK, 22/11, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item\\_140676230.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121122/mi/item_140676230.pdf)

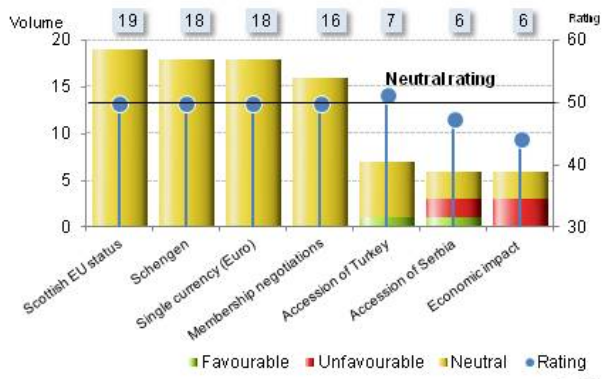
## Key Quotes

***"I expect Greece, being the oldest EU member state from the region and a proven supporter of the enlargement policy, to back the decision to start the accession talks with Macedonia in December and give its key and decisive contribution to the revival of the European integration of the Balkans. Macedonians expect the same from Bulgaria," Gruevski said*** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 23/11). <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n293050>

***The trial against Sanader bolsters EU's reputation as a transformative power. Croatia has now been used as a positive example to show that enlargement works, especially to sceptics who have been frowning upon Romania and Bulgaria joining the club*** (Capital.gr, Greece, 23/11). <http://www.capital.gr/NewsTheme.asp?id=1673160>

## Charts

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

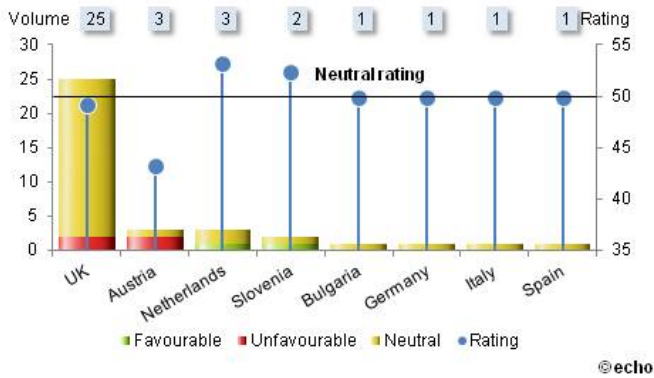


ELARG: **Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	37 items
Rating	49.3
Favourable %	5.4%
Unfavourable %	10.8%
Neutral %	83.8%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Hugo Swire (Foreign Office Minister, UK)	19
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	18
Pete Wishart (Member of Parliament, UK)	18
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey)	3
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Catherine Stihler (Labour MEP)	2

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