

Summary

European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle's visit to Zagreb for talks with Croatian national leaders on the fulfilment of commitments before the country joins the European Union was reported in Slovenia. His visit aims to encourage Croatia to step up regulation of obligations such as the restructuring of shipyards and judicial reform as 1 July 2013 approaches. Siol.net referred back to his warning a few weeks ago at the Prague conference to Zagreb and Ljubljana to intensify their efforts to resolve the dispute, because the EU does not want bilateral problems between its members (siol.net, SI, 26/11).

- siol.net, SI, 26/11, http://www.siol.net/novice/svet/2012/11/komisar_fule_na_obisku_na_hrvaskem.aspx

In Serbia Prime Minister Ivica Dačić said that nobody would give Kosovo back to Serbia "if we say we do not want to join the EU" and he added that the present government had managed to return to the negotiating table and it would be completely wrong to leave it now. Commenting on the recent statements of the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church advising Serbia should not join the EU regardless of cost, Dačić said: "I do not need anyone to tell me what our interests are" (newsbomb.gr, EL, 26/11). He added that good relations with Russia were the country's priority and that they still needed to be strengthened and built further (kerdos.gr, EL, 26/11).

- newsbomb.gr, EL, 26/11, <http://www.newsbomb.gr/diethnh/story/256387/servos-prothypoyrgos-mas-eklepsan-to-kosovo>
- kerdos.gr, EL, 26/11, <http://www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1838325&nt=103>

The economic impact of membership was discussed in uk.finance which commented that it was Mr Blair who opened the door in 2004 to workers from accession states, insisting that the impact on our jobs market and social infrastructure would be minimal. Those who challenged this orthodoxy were condemned as racists and bigots. As John Denham, Labour's former business secretary, later admitted, we were told to expect 15,000 migrants a year from the new EU states, and "15,000 came to Southampton alone". In the event, more than 700,000 East Europeans arrived in Britain and the vast majority have stayed (uk.finance.yahoo.com, UK, 26/11).

- uk.finance.yahoo.com, UK, 26/11, <http://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/del-boy-blair-peddles-immigration-063440987.html>

On enlargement more widely Wolfgang Münchau of the Financial Times suggests that there is no sustainable biosphere that is outside the eurozone, but inside the EU. The marginalisation of the EU at the expense of the eurozone also has implications for other policies, such as the foreign and security policy, and also for EU enlargement. (Financial-Times, UK, 26/11).

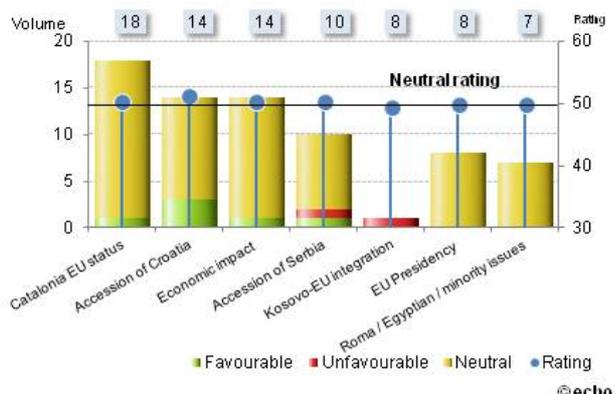
- Financial-Times, UK, 26/11 http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121126/mi/item_141025809.pdf

Key Quotes

None available at time of report delivery.

Charts

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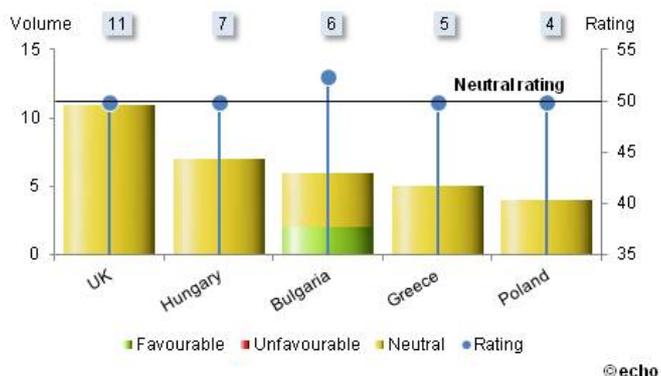


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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Artur Mas (President of the Generalitat de Catalunya)	15
Ivo Josipović (President Croatia)	8
José Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission)	7
Janos Ader (President, Hungary)	7
Mariano Rajoy (Prime Minister Spain)	5
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EC)	4
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4

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