



Summary

The Serbian Democratic Party recently published an announcement entitled 'Serbia is under threat', which featured the signatures of more than 260 public figures, including film director Emir Kusturica and dozens of members of the Serbian Academy of Sciences. The announcement calls for Serbia to distance itself from the EU and political neutrality. In addition to membership in the European Union, they are also opposed to Serbia's membership of NATO and demand a withdrawal of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU (sta.si, SI, 29/11).

- sta.si,SI,29/11http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1826777

Tension with Kosovo was further increased when Ramush Haradinaj, a former guerrilla commander in Kosovo who served briefly as Prime Minister, was acquitted of war crimes yesterday for a second time, clearing the way for a potential return to government, but angering Serbia. The verdict by a United Nations court in The Hague looked likely to test a new push by the European Union to reconcile Serbia and its former southern province (Independent, UK, 30/11). The Serbian President, Tomislav Nikolic, said the latest rulings "*fuel separatism, deal a blow to efforts at establishing peace in the region, annul efforts so far in normalising ties between Belgrade and Pristina and fuel Euroscepticism among Serbians.*" But the prime minister, Ivica Dačić, promised that Serbia would not pull out of talks with Pristina: "*Continuation of dialogue and the process of integration in the EU are in Serbia's interest,*" he insisted (Guardian, UK, 30/11).

- Independent, UK, 30/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121130/mi/item_14144436.pdf
- Guardian, UK, 30/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121130/mi/item_141444704.pdf

In Kosovo itself the government has condemned the leak of tapped phone calls recorded by European Union crime investigators and featuring voices identified as that of the prime minister and several senior officials. EULEX, which oversees law and order in Kosovo and handles cases of organised crime and war crimes, said the audio tapes were part of a continuing case and had been handed over to defence lawyers and the Pristina district court. Kosovo continues to struggle with deep-rooted organised crime and corruption almost five years since it declared independence from Serbia (trust.org, UK, 30/11).

- trust.org, UK, 30/11, <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/kosovo-condemns-youtube-leak-of-phone-taps-from-eu-investigation>

Ta Nea newspaper reported that the European Commission called Albanian PM Sali Berisha to order regarding his provocative statements about Greater Albania, asking for restraint and respect of the existing borders. "*We expect political leaders in the region to behave and speak responsibly. It is important for leaders to show restraint and not allow doubts about their commitment to respect existing borders*" said the spokesman for Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle (Ta-Nea, EL, 30/11).

- Ta-Nea, EL, 30/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121130/mi/item_141449086.pdf

In an interview with 24 Chasa, Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikolay Mladenov commented on the issue of Bulgarian-Macedonian relations. Mr Mladenov says that Bulgaria's harder stance on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) was caused by fYRoM anti-Bulgarian policy and campaign of discrimination against fYRoM citizens with Bulgarian ties. He adds that Bulgarian foreign policy aims at helping all Balkan countries join the EU. Mr Mladenov states that Bulgaria does not want to deprive the fYRoM of its right to exist but will not allow the fYRoM to deprive Bulgaria of its history (24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 30/11)

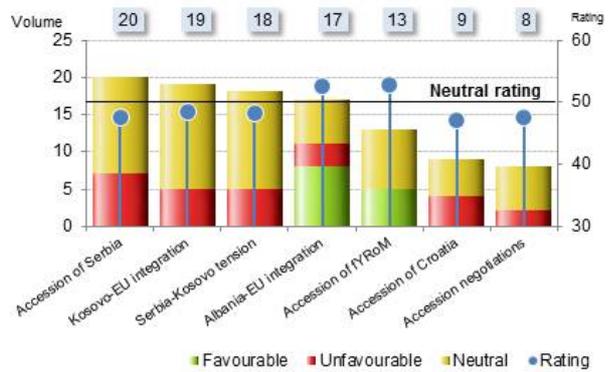
- 24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 30/11, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121130/mi/item_141441658.pdf

Key Quotes

The Balkans could become hostage to Hague verdicts (Delo, Slovenia, 3/12)
http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121203/mi/item_141679199.pdf

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

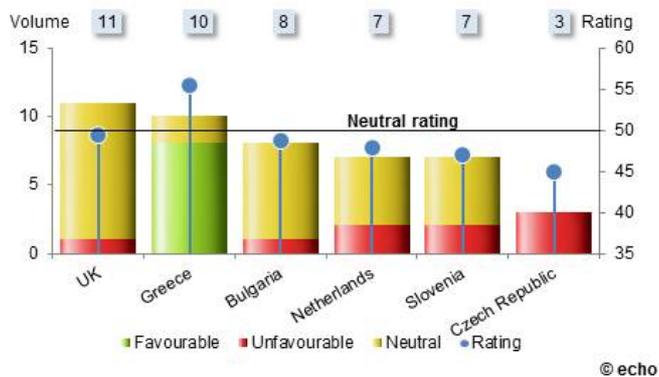


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	50 items
Rating	49.8
Favourable %	18%
Unfavourable %	20%
Neutral %	62%

© echo

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



© echo

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ramush Haradinaj (Former Prime Minister, Kosovo and former leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army)	17
Ante Gotovina (Former General, Croatia)	13
Dr Sali Berisha (Prime Minister, Albania)	10
Rosen Plevneliev (President, Bulgaria)	9
Nikolay Mladenov (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	9
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EC)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7

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