



Summary

European Parliament rapporteur for Serbia, Jelko Kacin, said that Serbia has progressed significantly towards European integration and a date to start negotiations with the European Union is within reach. Kacin in particular welcomed the progress Serbia had made in its relations with Kosovo (dnevnik.bg, BG, 4/12). According to Magyar-Hirlap (HU, 4/11), the Serbian Church is to oppose the continuation of the negotiations of Serbia and Kosovo in Brussels. Vecer suggests that Catherine Ashton and Hillary Clinton both came to the Balkans without a new prescription to solve the problems of this region and that although Serbia and Kosovo do not like each other, they are mutually dependent and must tolerate each other (Vecer, SI, 4/12).

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 4/12, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/evropeiski_parlament/novini_za_ep/2012/12/04/1961158_evrodeputat_datata_za_zapochvane_na_pregovori_na/?ref=rss
- Magyar-Hirlap, HU, 4/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121204/mi/item_141791729.pdf
- Vecer, SI, 4/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121204/mi/item_141799134.pdf

Cyprus' Foreign Minister, Erato Kozakou Marcoullis, assured the Albanian Minister for European Integration, Majlinda Bregu, that Cyprus will support the European perspective of Albania reported sigmalive.com (CY, 3/12). She said that "*the EU enlargement in the Western Balkans is one of the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency*" adding that "*In Albania, there were many significant accomplishments during the past year. Ms Bregu, affirmed that Albania "was committed to intensify its efforts and build on progress made."*

- sigmalive.com, CY, 3/12, <http://www.sigmalive.com/news/politics/19454>

On the subject of reform it was reported that billionaire retail tycoon Miroslav Miskovic, one of Serbia's most influential figures, was questioned by police on Monday as part of what the nationalist government says is a drive to root out graft, a key condition for joining the European Union. The EU called on the country last year to probe irregularities in the privatisation of 24 state companies since Milosevic was toppled (uk.reuters.com, UK, 3/12).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 3/12, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/12/03/uk-serbia-tycoonidUKBRE8B20YA20121203?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

Romania's accession to Schengen is not included on the agenda of the JHA Council in December according to Curentul (RO, 4/12). President Traian Băsescu stated, in an interview, that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (MCV) report, to be published in January 2013, would be unsparing as far as the government's commitments to the EC were concerned (realitatea.net, RO, 3/12). Nikos Christodoulides, spokesman for the Cypriot EU Presidency, said "*No progress has been made since October and we cannot afford to include the topic on the agenda as a positive decision will be impossible to make*". He denied allegations that he has made a statement about the reason for the postponement being the lack of progress in Bulgaria and Romania and added "*There is no consensus at the moment, which makes the Schengen accession impossible*" (24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 4/12).

- Curentul, RO, 4/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121204/mi/item_141780804.pdf
- realitatea.net, RO, 3/12, http://www.realitatea.net/basescu-raportul-mcv-din-ianuarie-va-fi-necrutator-in-privin-a-respectarii-angajamentelor-fa-a-de-ce_1065054.html
- 24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 4/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121204/mi/item_141779046.pdf

Key Quotes

Milo Djukanovic: "Every step towards the EU means an improvement in the quality of life and better conditions for economic development" (Romania Libera, Romania, 5/12)

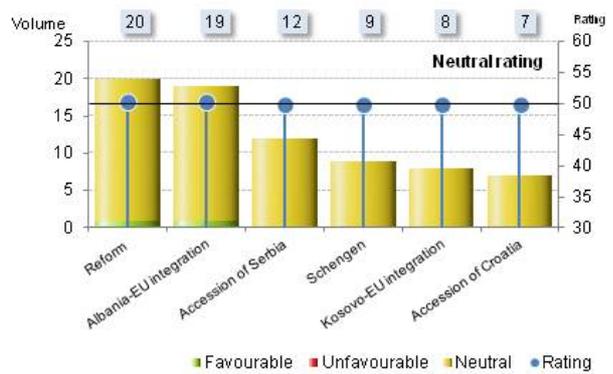
<http://www.romanalibera.ro/actualitate/europa/aderarea-la-ue-prioritatea-noului-quvern-al-muntenegru-286216.html>

Serbia, Kosovo talks register progress (Focus News, Bulgaria, 5/12)

<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n294046>

Charts

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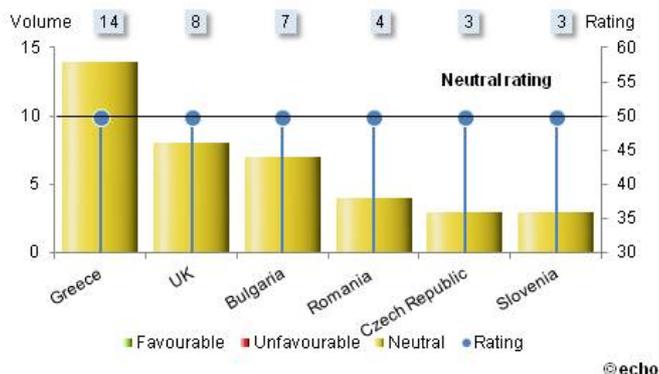


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Volume	44 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	2.3%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	97.7%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Dr Sali Berisha (Prime Minister, Albania)	16
Edi Rama (Albanian politician)	15
Nikos Christodoulides (Spokesman for the Cypriot EU Presidency)	6
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	3
Ramush Haradinaj (Former Prime Minister, Kosovo and former leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army)	3
Aleksandar Vučić (President Serbian Progressive Party)	3
Miroslav Mišković (Serbian businessman)	3

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