



## Summary

According to Bulgarian online media focus-fen-net, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) is not on the agenda for the European Council, after discussions on the country's accession have been postponed twice which it suggests is a sign that there are many controversial questions (focus-fen.net, BG, 7/12). Commissioner Füle said there were "no magic solutions for the name issue" but added that the Memorandum of Understanding recently proposed by Athens is a good opportunity to make progress. Speaking at a conference in Brussels on the Western Balkans, organised by the think tank, Friends of Europe, Mr Füle said that fYRoM authorities should not assume that the solution to the name issue is up to the creativity of the European Commission or the members of the Council (Adesmevtos-Typos, EL, 7/12). Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos sent clear message to Skopje insisting that "increasing nationalism and populism in certain neighbouring countries is a source of huge concern. Applicant members, whether we are talking about NATO or the EU, must respect the principles and values of Europe. No concessions would be made and all criteria and conditions should be met," (focus-fen.net, BG, 7/12).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 7/12, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n294192>
- Adesmevtos-Typos, EL, 7/12, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121207/mi/item\\_142128731.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121207/mi/item_142128731.pdf)
- focus-fen.net, BG, 7/12, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n294207>

The political decision concerning the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to Schengen is likely to come no earlier than March 2013, according to the Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov. Mr Tsvetanov, who is in Brussels for the last meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council under the Cypriot EU Presidency, explained that the Schengen bids would not be discussed because of the lack of sufficient progress since the last meeting in October. He told a BNR correspondent that the first regular meeting under the Irish EU Presidency had been scheduled for March 2013 (bTV-Bulgaria, BG, 6/12). Romania-Libera reported on Friday that Romania had been left without a Schengen accession date (Romania-Libera, RO, 7/12).

- bTV-Bulgaria, BG, 6/12 (no link available)
- Romania-Libera, RO, 7/12, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121207/mi/item\\_142113249.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121207/mi/item_142113249.pdf)

Widely reporting in the UK was the story that the European Commission has confirmed its view that EU membership would no longer apply to any territory within its boundaries which became independent after leaving a larger member state. President Barroso, has used a written answer to Labour MEP David Martin to say he stands by the commission's view, given in 2004, which declared that a newly independent nation within the EU would "become a third country with respect to the Union". In reply to a question Mr Barroso said "Yes. The legal context has not changed since 2004, as the Lisbon Treaty has not introduced any change in this respect. Therefore the commission can confirm its position as expressed in 2004." (Scotsman, UK, 7/12). Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond has insisted that an independent Scotland would remain in the European Union and said that Scotland would be negotiating from inside the EU. But, speaking for the Westminster Government, the Scottish Secretary Michael Moore said Scotland would have to re-apply for membership and negotiate fresh terms and conditions (BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 6/12).

- Scotsman, UK, 7/12, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121207/mi/item\\_142111407.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121207/mi/item_142111407.pdf)
- BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 6/12, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121206/mi/2501-432694-001.mp3>

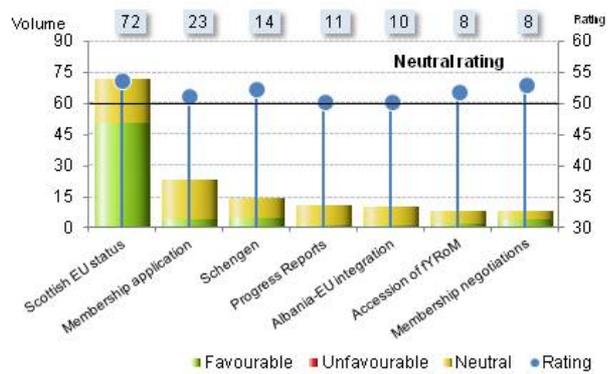
## Key Quotes

**Vecer, Macedonia: Greece mocking Skopje and Brussels** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 10/12) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n294411>

**As Mr. Delavekouras underlined, Greece's position "remains steady and consistent", that compliance with all the conditions and criteria that have been set by unanimous decisions of the EU is a necessary prerequisite for the opening of accession negotiations. "Uppermost among these conditions is respect for good neighbourly relations, which means the finding of a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue."** (ElZoni.gr, Greece, 10/12) <http://www.elzoni.gr/html/ent/030/ent.29030.asp>

## Charts

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

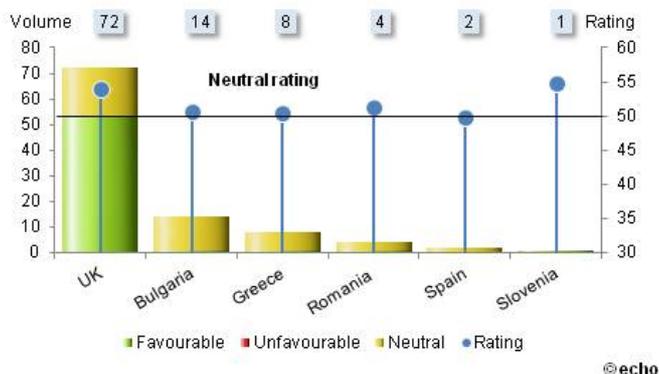


ELARG: **Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	101 items
Rating	53.1
Favourable %	56.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	43.6%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
José Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission)	54
Nicola Sturgeon (Deputy First Minister, Scotland)	42
John Swinney (Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Scotland)	20
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	16
Michael Moore (Scottish Secretary, UK)	9
Dr Sali Berisha (Prime Minister, Albania)	7
Gregory Delavekouras (Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Greece)	6

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