



Summary

The Enlargement process was highlighted by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize. Lotta Hördin wrote a piece carried in *hd.se* (SE, 10/12) that EU enlargement to the East when both the Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall collapsed was important for the development of democracy in the region. As it can be, for the Balkan states which are still waiting to join. Birgitta Ohlsson, also in Sweden (*norran.se*, SE, 10/12) was of the opinion that the EU has undoubtedly helped to heal Europe's open wounds and that without the cooperation, we would never have found ourselves where we are today. Ms Ohlsson adds that now, in December 2012 the EC is continuing with the next European peace journey, which the Balkans that experienced genocide and war as late as the 1990s are responding to, albeit cautiously. An extremely unfavourable piece in the weekly supplement of *Delo* however, criticises the fact that the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize, listing a number of reasons against the decision, including its failure to stop the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The article goes on to say that the EU is an elitist association, uniting the ruling nomenclature, not the people, and it has done almost nothing to promote world peace and it quotes other critics who believe that the EU pushed millions into poverty and unemployment (*Delo*, SI, 8/12).

- *hd.se*, SE, 10/12, <http://hd.se/ledare/2012/12/10/risk-for-prisinflation/>
- *norran.se*, SE, 10/12, <http://norran.se/2012/12/debatt/fredspriset-en-vackare-for-eu/>
- *Delo*, SI, 8/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121208/mi/item_142354308.pdf

In Bulgaria the leader of the VMRO party Krasimir Karakachanov received a letter containing death threats addressed to him, the PM Boyko Borisov, the President Georgi Parvanov, and the Foreign Affairs Minister Nikolay Mladenov, signed by an organisation by the name of the Macedonian Patriotic Guard: "*Skopje wants us to support the EU, while the Macedonian group threatened the Prime Minister and President of Bulgaria*", said Karakachanov (24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 10/12).

- 24-Chasa-Daily, BG, 10/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121210/mi/item_142345473.pdf

Wales must "*never forget*" the benefits of European Union membership, Carwyn Jones has claimed. Speaking ahead of a ceremony today where EU leaders prepare to accept the Nobel Peace Prize, the Welsh First Minister said "*to dismiss the achievements of the EU is to forget our blood-stained history and just how far the continent has come in the past 60 years*". He said the EU remained of "*major importance*" to Welsh business and was worth thousands of jobs. The Nobel Committee said when it announced the peace prize decision that the "*stabilising part*" played by the EU had "*helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace*" (*Western-Mail*, UK, 10/12).

- *Western-Mail*, UK, 10/12 No link available

Sta.si (SI, 10/12) reported that EU foreign ministers were due to discuss the opening of accession negotiations with Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia yesterday. This is considered to be a major "open question" for EU Enlargement currently; the current modifications need to be further reviewed before Friday's EU (Council) meeting.

- *sta.si*, SI, 10/12, <http://sta.si/vev.php?s=s&id=1830874>

Key Quotes

"Our doctrine is clear since 2004 in legal terms. If one part of a country wants to become an independent state, of course as an independent state it has to apply to the European membership. That is obvious." (La Opinión A Coruña, Spain, 11/12)

<http://www.laopinioncoruna.es/mundo/2012/12/11/barroso-deja-claro-escocia-queda-fuera-ue-independiza/672629.html>

Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the European Affairs, Teuta Arifi, said she expected the EU to find a formula, which would satisfy both Macedonia, and its neighbours and the EU. "There is some reserved optimism that the EU will manage to find a good formula, a correct one, which will give us the chance to continue the process that has already started, to get ready and launch the accession talks," Arifi said. (*Focus News*, Bulgaria, 11/12)

<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n294467>

Reacting to the commission president's statements, Ms Sturgeon said: "We do not agree that an independent Scotland will be in the position of having to reapply for European Union membership, because there is no provision for removing EU treaties from any part of EU territory, or for removing European citizenship from the people of a country which has been in the EU for 40 years." (*The Scotsman*, UK, 11/12)

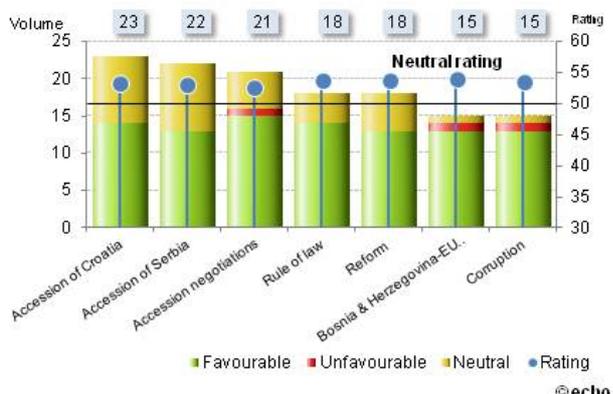
<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/scottish-independence-new-setback-for-snp-over-eu-membership-as-jose-manuel-barroso-blocks-automatic-entry-1-2683922>

EU membership claim by Barroso is slapdown for Salmond (*Scottish Sunday Express*, UK, 11/12)

<http://www.scottishsundayexpress.co.uk/posts/view/363966/EU-membership-claim-by-Barroso-is-slapdown-for-Salmond>

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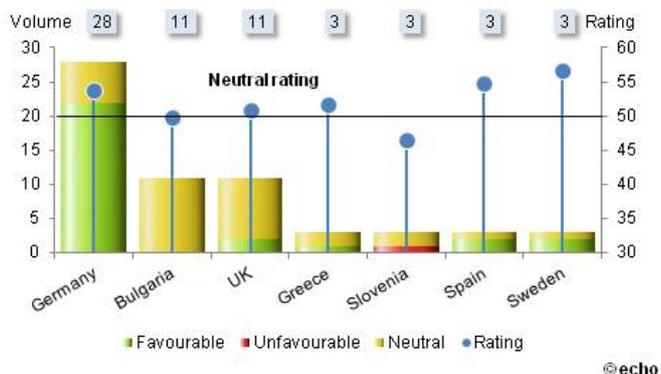


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Jose Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission)	9
Martin Schultz (President, European Parliament)	5

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