



Summary

It was announced that Serbia and its former province Kosovo began the joint control of two border crossings on Monday for the first time since the 1998-99 war, pushed by the European Union as a condition of opening membership talks with Serbia. A spokeswoman for the EU's police and justice mission, EULEX, said the mission was "more than happy" with the deal. "We have shown in difficult circumstances that we are capable and bold enough to protect peace and our own national interests," Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić told reporters (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 10/12). The achievement of an agreement on joint border controls, may have a positive impact on the decision of foreign ministers and heads of EU member states at the end of this week suggests Drevnik (SI, 11/12). "I believe that what we have seen from Serbia and Kosovo is an extraordinary step forward," said German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels: "We can only encourage all of those involved to continue along this path" (muslimnews.co.uk, UK, 11/12).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 10/12, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/under-eu-pressure-serbia-kosovo-launch-joint-border-123941781.html>
- Dnevnik, SI, 11/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121211/mi/item_142460560.pdf
- muslimnews.co.uk, UK, 11/12, <http://www.muslimnews.co.uk/news/news.php?article=24186>

Although the enlargement process will slow down significantly following the entry of Croatia into the EU, EU Foreign Ministers nonetheless adopted resolutions at yesterday's meeting that indicate that the door is not completely closed to other potential candidates. One of the countries discussed was Serbia, which is striving to get a date for the start of membership negotiations at this week's EU Summit (Delo, SI, 11/12). The Slovenian Foreign Minister, Vesna Pusić said that Serbia should be given a time frame for opening EU entry talks (express.gr, EL, 11/12).

- Delo, SI, 11/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121211/mi/item_142449796.pdf
- express.gr, EL, 11/12, http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/666892oz_20121211666892.php3

Concerning the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) Athens accused Austria of imperialism as talks by the 27 national EU ambassadors over the bloc's relationship with the fYRoM fell apart last Friday night. Walter Grahhammer, the permanent representative for Austria with the EU, proposed a compromise supported by 14 member states that aimed to resolve the name issue over Macedonia for the time being. But his Greek counterpart Theodoros Sotiropoulos came forward and said that Austria was no longer an empire and could therefore no longer simply impose its policy on the Balkans (Presse-Austria, AT, 11/12). Commissioner Štefan Füle has formally proposed the fYRoM's EU accession negotiations to begin but not to be completed if the name issue is not resolved. However, the Greek Foreign Ministry is blocking the adoption of Mr Füle's proposal, emphasising that there must be a solution first in order for accession negotiations to start (Avghi, EL, 11/12). Bulgaria said it could not sign a blank check for Macedonia's EU accession (dnes.bg, BG, 11/12).

- Presse-Austria, AT, 11/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121211/mi/item_142457759.pdf
- Avghi, EL, 11/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121211/mi/item_142460679.pdf
- dnes.bg, BG, 11/12, <http://www.dnes.bg/balkani/2012/12/11/bylqariia-ne-moje-da-podpishe-prazen-chek-na-makedoniia-za-es.175141>

There was also wide-spread reporting across regional and national UK media of President Barroso's statement on Scotland's position in relation to EU membership should it become independent e.g "Scotland warned on EU status. An independent Scotland would have to apply to join the EU and negotiate its terms of entry with other member states, José Manuel Barroso, European Commission president, has warned." (Financial Times, UK, 11/12).

- Financial Times, UK, 11/12, (no link available).

At the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo, Thorbjorn Jagland, President of the Nobel Peace Committee said that the EU has constantly been a central driving force of reconciliation (ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 10/12) and he encouraged the EU to continue with the enlargement process and solve the problems that still exist in some parts of Europe, such as Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Cinco-Dias, ES, 11/12).

- ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 10/12, <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/413502/20121210/nobel-nobel-prizes-nobel-peace-prize-e-u-european-union-european-union-peace-prize-acceptance-speech.htm>
- Cinco-Dias, ES, 11/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121211/mi/item_142464926.pdf

Key Quotes

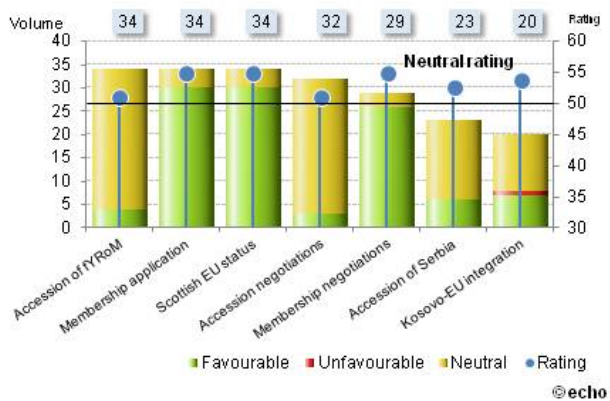
Macedonia without date for EU bid negotiations (novinite.com, Bulgaria, 12/12)
http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=145978

Of these, 3.8million arrived after 2001, including a high proportion who came from Poland and Eastern Europe after Tony Blair's government allowed free immigration when their countries joined the EU in 2004. (dailymail.co.uk, UK, 12/12)
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2246689/Census-data-Decade-changed-face-UK-4million-migrants-settle--London-half-population-white-British.html>

Füle: "Macedonia has a chance to begin negotiations in June" (BNR, Bulgaria,12/12)
<http://bnr.bg/sites/horizont/Politics/World/Pages/1212ful.aspx>

Charts

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

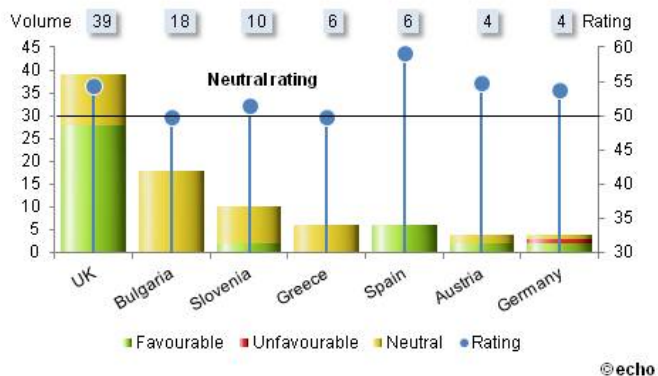


ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	96 items
Rating	53.1
Favourable %	45.8%
Unfavourable %	1.1%
Neutral %	53.1%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Jose Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission)	46
Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council)	14
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	13
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	11
Martin Schultz (President, European Parliament)	10
Nicola Sturgeon (Deputy First Minister, Scotland)	10
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	8
François Hollande (President, France)	8

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