



Summary

Chances of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) being able to start accession negotiations with the EU fell significantly yesterday after it became clear that Bulgaria would refuse to support it (Sega-Daily, BG, 12/12). At a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels Bulgaria was among the countries that have expressed a firm position against Macedonia (Capital-Daily, BG, 12/12). Most of the media and especially the government of the former fYRoM did not hide their disappointment at the fact that there was no date to start accession negotiations given (taxydromos.gr, EL, 12/12). Mediapool.bg (BG, 12/12/) however reported that Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle, cited by BNR, had said that the fYRoM still has a chance to start negotiations for EU membership in June next year, as proposed by the European Commission.

- Sega-Daily, BG, 12/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121212/mi/item_142545461.pdf
- Capital-Daily, BG, 12/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121212/mi/item_142561125.pdf
- taxydromos.gr, EL, 12/12, <http://www.taxydromos.gr/article.php?id=67287&cat=2>
- mediapool.bg, BG, 12/12, (link not available)

Continuing the issue of tension between Bulgaria and the fYRoM, at the General Affairs Council meeting Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolay Maldenov said the state should stop violating the civil rights of people of Bulgarian descent. *"In order to receive Bulgaria's support, FYRoM should prove it is ready to meet all requirements, including the criteria for being a good neighbour."* Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and President Plevneliev revealed the official Bulgarian position later after consultation. Bulgaria will not be among the states supporting the appointment of a date for the start of accession negotiations, although the country supports the fYRoM's European perspectives (Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 12/12).

- Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 12/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121212/mi/item_142545478.pdf

Serbia and Kosovo were praised for their renewed bilateral talks, with Commissioner Füle calling Belgrade "brave" and announcing that *"this time there is no mismatch between words and deeds."* Serbia is seeking EU membership, while Kosovo aspires to an association agreement - even though five EU countries do not recognise it as an independent country. Füle wrote on Twitter following the Brussels meeting to discuss the issue – which lasted almost five hours - that there was *"a clear timetable for Serbia"*, and specified that *"if progress continues, opening of EU accession negotiations (will be) possible in next EU presidency"* (bne.eu, DE, 12/12). Sweden is among the countries pushing the view that the EU should keep its promise of bringing the Western Balkans countries into the fold of the EU. Greece still wants Macedonia to change its name, and Germany's minister for European affairs Michael Flink criticised Serbia's last-minute concession to open border crossings between it and Kosovo on Monday ahead of the decision yesterday according to Dagens-Nyheter (SE, 12/12).

- bne.eu, DE, 12/12, http://www.bne.eu/story4361/EU_offers_Serbia_a_timetable_for_accession_talks
- Dagens-Nyheter, SE, 12/12, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20121212/mi/item_142549465.pdf

The results of EU enlargement were shown in the UK census which recorded that 7.5m people in England and Wales were born outside the UK. The census shows that by far the biggest influx was from Poland following its accession to the European Union in 2004. Sir Andrew Green, chairman of Migration Watch UK, said the census figures "clearly" demonstrated the need to get immigration under control to allow time for migrant communities to integrate (telegraph.co.uk, UK, 11/12).

- telegraph.co.uk, UK, 11/12, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9738300/Census-2011-7.5m-people-in-England-and-Wales-were-born-outside-the-UK.html>

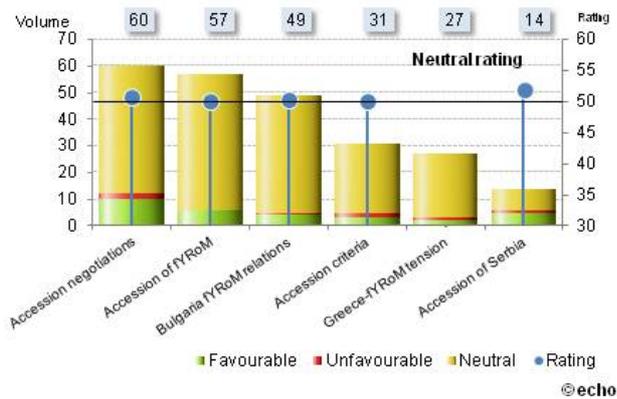
Key Quotes

"Albania at the moment has not met the conditions, which means that European Commission has not told to the European Council that Albania has fulfilled conditions, "Ambassador Sequi said. (ElZoni.gr, Greece, 13/12)
<http://www.elzoni.gr/html/ent/160/ent.29160.asp>

The EU leaders are also expected to adopt conclusions on EU enlargement and the stabilisation and association process for the Western Balkans. (Focus News, Bulgaria, 13/12)
<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n294602>

Charts

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

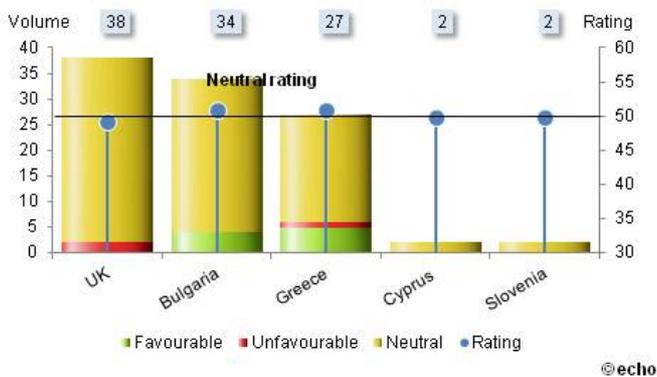


ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	108 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	10.2%
Unfavourable %	2.8%
Neutral %	87%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikolay Mladenov (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	32
Boyko Borisov (Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	30
Rosen Plevneliev (President of Bulgaria)	29
Štefan Füle (Commissioner for Enlargement, EC)	22
Jose Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission)	8
Dr Sali Berisha (Prime Minister, Albania)	7

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