

Summary

The FYRoM daily Utrinski Vesnik remembered its headline from some nine years ago when FYRoM filed its candidacy for EU: *"Macedonia is knocking on EU's door; Dublin should bring a twist"* but this time round nobody is making optimistic prognoses about the expectations for the first six months of this year, as Ireland takes up its EU presidency, despite the fact that Dublin outlined the EU enlargement as one of its priorities. So far the EU Presidencies have not played a big role in the enlargement process, but the question is what has really changed for Macedonia since filed its membership application? (focus-fen.net, BG, 3/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 3/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n295896>

The Serbian Government's Minister for Europe Suzana Grubješić was widely quoted in Greek media that *"Kosovo or the EU"* was a false dilemma, but clarified that the recognition of Kosovo is out of the question. *"What needs to be done is to establish some sort of normalisation with Priština"* she said (parapolitika.gr, EL, 3/1). In Kosovo, in an interview for DW, Foreign Minister, Enver Hoxhaj, said the Kosovo government will require that the person representing Kosovo in Belgrade has diplomatic immunity: *"We are working intensively for the representative of the Republic of Kosovo to be ambassador to the Republic of Serbia and Kosovo's representation in Belgrade to be a liaison office of the Republic of Kosovo. This will be the official title, and we expect Serbia to respond reciprocally"* (focus-fen.net, BG, 2/1).

- parapolitika.gr, EL, 3/1, <http://www.parapolitika.gr/ArticleDetails/tabid/63/ArticleID/535690/Serbia-Oi-diapragatfseis-me-tin-EE-tha-xekinisoy-n-entos-toy-2013.aspx>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 2/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n295841>

On Serbia's accession negotiations former EU Integration Office Director Tanja Mišćević believes that conditions for Serbia's progress have been met. *"I think that all pieces of the puzzle have come into place, all the progress has been made so far with all the problems in terms of the implementation of European standards, harmonisation of laws and their implementation, forming of regulatory bodies... Time has come to negotiate the membership."* she noted. Economist Vladimir Gligorov says that the EU accession is not a precondition for Serbia's survival but that it was of crucial importance for the quality of its economic and social development. He added that Serbia had already tried to survive without EU integration (express.gr, EL, 2/1).

- express.gr, EL, 2/1, http://www.express.gr/news/balkans/674166oz_20130102674166.php3

Focus-fen reported that the Kosovo government, as of January 1 2013, has introduced a visa regime for the citizens of 87 countries. The measure, it is reported, will have a positive effect on the security of the country and its progress on the way to European integration. *"As far as the internal security is concerned, the visa regime represents a preventive measure, since it can identify people posing risks and danger and stop their entry to Kosovo territory,"* said a spokesperson for the Kosovo's Foreign Ministry (focus-fen.net, BG, 3/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 3/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n295893>

Concerning Turkey, former UK Foreign Minister, David Miliband, said that 2013 could, and should, be the year in which the relationship between the EU and Turkey takes a turn for the better. He said *"we have come a long way from the heady days in 2005 when the EU and Turkey opened accession negotiations for Turkish membership. Only 8 "chapters" out of more than thirty have been opened – the rest blocked by the intransigence of Cyprus, France and other sceptics"* (dnevnik.bg, BG, 2/1). The Turkish academic, Canan Balkir, commented in Lt Tribune (FR, 3/1) that the prospect of membership had paved the way for major structural reforms in the country, but added that *"Turkey is not considered a true European country. We are treated differently and discriminated because of our cultural and religious identity"*. Turkey's EU accession process was reported to have hit a brick wall, after various accession chapters closed under pretext of Turkey's refusal to open full trade with Cyprus according to londonlovesbusiness.com, (UK, 3/1).

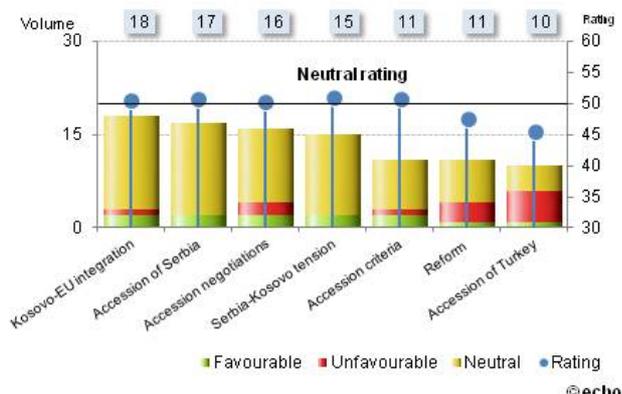
- dnevnik.bg, BG, 2/1, http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2013/01/02/1977441_bivsh_britanski_ministur_ochakva_podobrenie_v/
- Tribune, FR, 3/1, (no link available)
- londonlovesbusiness.com, UK, 3/1, <http://www.londonlovesbusiness.com/business-news/politics/the-good-bad-and-the-outright-ugly-of-britains-40-years-in-the-eu-part-ii/4305.article>

Key Quotes

Ivan Mrkić: *"Brussels is still our priority, that is well-known, but we have excellent relations with Moscow, and in recent months we have significantly improved our relations with Washington"* (newsbeast.gr, Greece, 4/1)
<http://www.newsbeast.gr/world/arthro/467822/epithesi-filias-tis-servias-pros-tis-ipa/>

Charts

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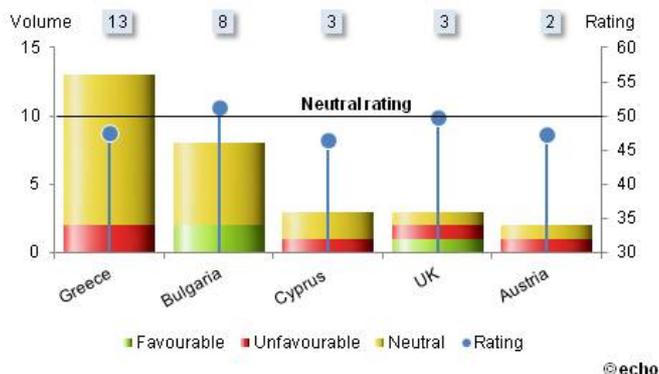
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume, favourability & rating

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



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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Suzana Grubješić (Minister for European integration, Serbia)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	4
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	4
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3

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