



Summary

Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić reiterated that he had wished to spend Christmas in the area most stricken by hardships, in Kosovo-Metohija, but that the European community did not pass the test. "*The European Union has shown its true face*," Nikolić said, adding that the matter will be the subject of further negotiations. He added that Brussels "*must think twice before trying to convince Serbia that it is status neutral*" (Pravo, CZ, 9/1). The Government of Serbia condemned the arrest in Kosovo of dozens of young people who attended the Nativity service at Gračanica monastery and asked the international community to ensure the observance of civil and religious freedoms in Kosovo, RIA Novosti reported (focus-fen.net, BG, 9/1).

- Pravo, CZ, 9/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130109/mi/item_144692066.pdf
- focus-fen.net, BG, 9/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296381>

UN mediator in the Greek and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) name dispute, Matthew Nimetz, arrived in Athens to take part in the next stage of the negotiations over the fYRoM's name. Possible proposals regarding the name would most probably be connected with geographical qualifiers. According to Greek media, two of the possible suggestions might be the Vardar Republic of Macedonia or Northern Republic of Macedonia (focus-fen.net, BG, 8/1). The Greek Foreign Minister, Dimitris Avramopoulos, will meet Matthew Nimetz on Wednesday, MIA reported from Athens. There are currently no announcements over Nimetz's meetings with other Greek top officials but he is due to visit Skopje, as part of the process (focus-fen.net, BG, 9/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 8/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296354>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 9/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296406>

"No country can impose unilateral measures restricting the free movement of workers," said EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, László Andor (Sega-Daily, BG, 9/1). He warned that London should not unilaterally restrict access to the European labour market. Commissioner Andor was speaking in response to a question asking whether the European Commission would take a stance if the UK decided to restrict the access of Bulgarian and Romanian migrant workers to its labour market, as hinted by UK Prime Minister David Cameron on Sunday (Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 9/1).

- Sega-Daily, BG, 9/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130109/mi/item_144688777.pdf
- Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 9/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130109/mi/item_144688773.pdf

Even though Romania and Bulgaria's accession to the Schengen area should be on the agenda of the EU Interior Ministers' meeting in March, this might change if there are enough signs that the Netherlands, as well as other member states, still firmly oppose the two states' accession. Bulgarian sources from inside the European Commission claim that the "*complicated political situation*" in Romania is the cause of this new postponement (Romania-Libera, RO, 9/1). The Netherlands is ready to impose a veto, since the country believes that Bulgaria and Romania have not made enough effort to put in place reforms (focus-fen.net, BG, 9/1).

- Romania-Libera, RO, 9/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130109/mi/item_144697915.pdf
- focus-fen.net, BG, 9/1, <http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1735865>

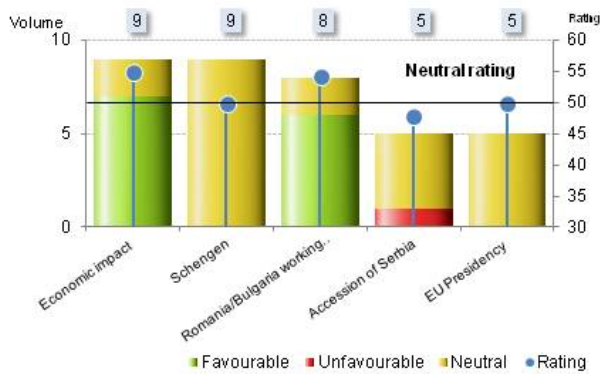
Key Quotes

Serbia has indicated it was ready to loosen its hold on a minority Serb region of neighbouring Kosovo in what may mark a major concession by the government in Belgrade as it pushes for talks on joining the European Union (The Scotsman, UK, 10/1)
<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/international/serbia-raises-possibility-of-change-for-kosovo-1-2727688>

The Nationalist Party of Albania has submitted to the Central Election Commission the request for realising the referendum for Kosova-Albania unification. Kreshnik Spahiu stated that "*the two Albanian states should become EU member states as Albanian federation with two units, which remove the borders, but they do not change them*" (Newsbeast.gr, Greece, 10/1)
<http://www.newsbeast.gr/world/arthro/470999/dimopsifisma-gia-tin-enopoiisi-avlanias-kosovou/>

Charts

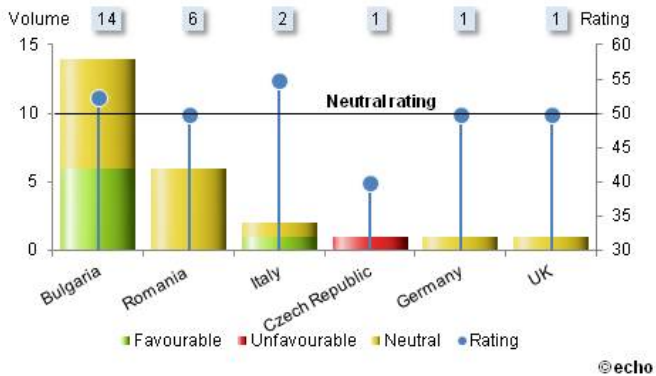
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Rating	51.4
Favourable %	28%
Unfavourable %	4%
Neutral %	68%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	7
László Andor (Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EC)	6
Matthew Nimetz (Special Representative for the naming dispute between Greece and the fYRoM, UN)	3
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	2
Lucinda Creighton (Minister of State for European Affairs, Ireland)	2

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