



Summary

Kosovo Deputy PM and Minister of Justice, Hajredin Kuçi said that Kosovo does not need to present new proposals concerning the functioning of the rule of law in the north. He made these comments a few hours after the Serbian government adopted a resolution and other documents to determine the Serbian position in the Kosovo talks. He said *"There is no need to have proposals that insist on the removing of Serbian security structures, public funding and non-interference in Kosovo internal affairs. Everything needed for North Kosovo is in the framework of the Ahtisaari package and the Kosovo Constitution. Of course, details, timelines and providers for the implementation of these documents can be a subject for discussion"*(focus-fen.net, BG, 10/1). According to the Serbian National News Agency, Tanjug, an open letter to President Tomislav Nikolić, signed by the mayors of the four Serbian municipalities suggests that the text of the resolution does not comply with Serbian policy and considers the continuation of the negotiations at a technical level as *"indirect recognition of Kosovo's independence"*. At the end of the letter they say they fear that *"Serbs are seriously worried about the termination of the presence of Serbia's institutions in Kosovo"*, which, according to them *"are the only guarantee on the position of the Kosovo Serbs"* (focus-fen.net, BG, 11/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 10/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296545>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 11/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296603>

In Austria it was reported that Serbia's time frame for reforms is getting smaller; Serbia still needs to show advances in reform for accession to the EU and the time frame for this is still open until summer. Afterwards, Germany, as the weightiest EU member and supporter of Serbia, will have other priorities. The rush has made Serbia's current leadership more willing to compromise, particularly in matters concerning Kosovo. The EU Commission's next progress report on Serbia is in March. If there is a positive score for the advances in reform, then the path will likely be clear to commence accession negotiations according to Wirtschaftsblatt (AT, 11/1).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT,11/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130111/mi/item_144917908.pdf

The European Commission will this month orally update the EU Council on Bulgaria's progress with judiciary and home affairs reforms, EC Spokesperson Mark Gray announced. The update will take place before Romania's CVM report is presented to the council. Asked about the controversy surrounding the election of new Bulgarian Prosecutor General, Mr Gray once again reiterated the stance that the EC would only comment on procedures, not on the person. That said, the EC would also present an evaluation of the Prosecutor General's track record as part of the country's next CVM report scheduled for end-2013 (Duma-Daily, BG, 11/1).

- Duma-Daily, BG, 11/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130111/mi/item_144913525.pdf

The mediator in the Greek-fyRoM name dispute, Matthew Nimetz, is to meet with leaders in Skopje on Friday. He arrived in the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Thursday after a two-day visit to Athens. (focus-fen.net, BG, 11/1). According to the newspaper, Utrinski Vesnik, a day after Nimetz's visit to Athens there were reservations about the expectations from this round of talks. The American diplomat's new ideas supposedly satisfied the Greek red lines and were reportedly within the framework of Athens' demands for a comprehensive name with a geographical attribute for universal use (focus-fen.net, BG, 11/1).

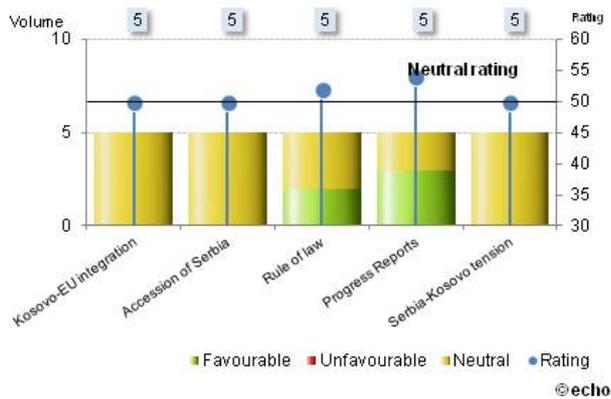
- focus-fen.net, BG, 11/1 <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296590>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 11/1 <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296600>

Key Quotes

Ministers must come clean about how many Bulgarians and Romanians will enter Britain when restrictions are lifted, Tory MPs demanded last night. Communities Secretary Eric Pickles revealed yesterday there was a Government forecast but refused to say what it was: *"I've been given a figure, I'm not confident on the figure and until I'm confident on the figure I'm not going to quote a figure"* (Focus News, Bulgaria, 14/1) <http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1737470>

Charts

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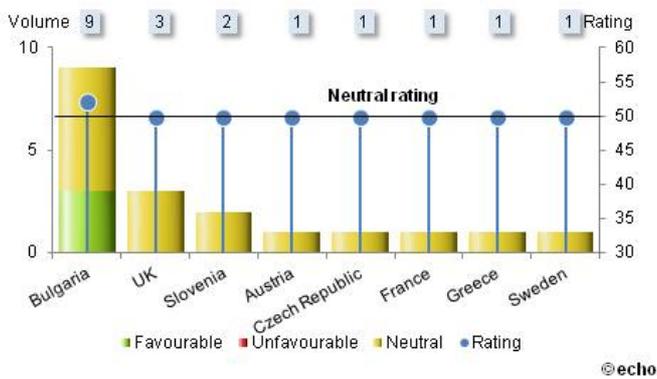
Volume	20 items
Rating	51.1
Favourable %	15%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	85%

ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Mark Gray (Spokesperson, EC)	4
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Matthew Nimetz (Special Representative for the naming dispute between Greece and the FYRoM, UN)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	2

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
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