



Summary

Serbia has adopted a set of guidelines for reconciliation talks with the leaders of Kosovo; in a strong first signal it is loosening its claim to its former province in the hope of getting closer to European Union membership. Prime Minister Ivica Dačić warned against "*myths and fairytales*" over Kosovo and said we have to create a strong basis to save something. "*If Serbia keeps its head in the sand, it will have nothing to negotiate about.*" Dačić who was former President Slobodan Milosevic's spokesman during the Kosovo war, said. "*People need results and responsibility, not a policy of honorable failures and lost battles.*" The more pragmatic approach to the ongoing talks indicates Serbian desire to get closer to EU membership. The EU said progress in the talks is crucial for Belgrade to get a starting date for accession negotiations. Serbia's nationalist President Tomislav Nikolic, who initiated the text of the original, more expansive resolution, praised the adoption of the document. "*We did not reach a complete consensus, but it is clear that there is will to help find a solution to this problem*" (guardian.co.uk, UK, 13/1).

- guardian.co.uk, UK, 13/1, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/10608979>

The European Commission has allocated 65 million to support Kosovo's efforts to implement its EU-reform agenda. The funds will be used for reforms of the justice and public administration systems, investments in education and regional development, and to provide housing and job opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families who are currently living in lead-contaminated camps. "*These new funds reflect our commitment to assist Kosovo on its path towards the European Union*" Commissioner for Enlargement, Štefan Füle said. "*More effective public administration and judiciary, better integration of minorities and education, as well as economic development are key priorities in this regard. Our funding will support the necessary reforms, bringing tangible benefits to citizens*" (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 11/1).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 11/1, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/stati/kosovo/2013/01/11/Kosovo-Commissione-Ue-65-mln-attuare-agenda-riforme_8058134.html

According to Polskie Radio, experts in the field indicate that enlargement of the European Union is generating a lot of controversy in Germany; that German citizens do not want Turkey, the Balkan States and the Ukraine to become EU Member States because maintenance of their memberships is too expensive. (Polskie-Radio-1, PL, 11/1). In Greece on the other hand it is suggested that the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU and the European goal for other Balkan countries should be an effective means to clean up polluted areas, to rehabilitate mining sites and apply rules and practices that achieve measurable results in terms of environmental protection (seleo.gr, EL, 14/1).

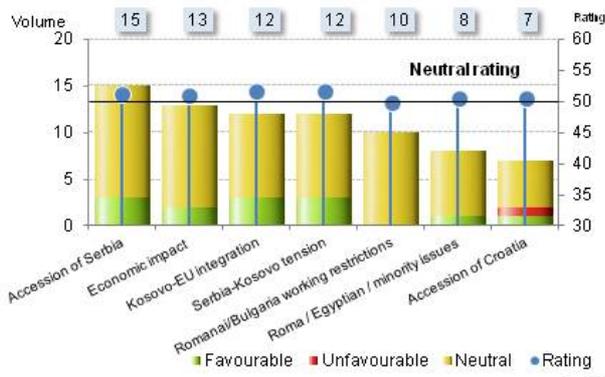
- Polskie-Radio-1, PL, 11/1 (no link available)
- seleo.gr, EL, 14/1, http://www.seleo.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83439:anhsuxia-gia-thn-terastia-eisaqomenh-periballontiki-rupansh-sthn-thrakh&catid=74:sites&Itemid=54

Key Quotes

Iceland puts brakes on EU accession talks. "*We have decided to slow down the accession negotiations,*" Foreign Minister Ossur Skarphedinsson said after a cabinet meeting. (Inews.gr, Greece, 15/1)
<http://www.inews.gr/200/islandia-freno-stis-synomilies-gia-entaxi-stin-ee.htm>

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Eric Pickles (Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, UK)	10
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	4
Marko Prelec (Director Balkans Project, International Crisis Group)	4
Philip Hollobone (Conservative MP, UK)	4
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Theresa May (Interior Minister, UK)	3

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