



Summary

The UK Independence Party is preparing to exploit fears over mass immigration from Romania and Bulgaria by putting the issue at the heart of its campaign strategy over the next year. David Cameron refused yesterday to speculate about how many people from those countries could head to Britain in search of work when restrictions on their movement of travel within the European Union are lifted in January 2014. Conservative MPs will tomorrow call for the Government to impose emergency new restrictions on Romanians and Bulgarians because of the impact on jobs and services. UKIP is seeking to link its *raison d'être* - arguing for withdrawal from the EU - with immigration, which surveys show is among voters' biggest concerns. Its private polling suggests any party that successfully linked the two issues could potentially appeal to 80 per cent of the electorate (Independent, UK, 15/1). The economic impact of enlargement was also commented on in Germany where, in 2012, the number of asylum seekers increased in 2012. A major reason for this increase was the abolishment of the visa requirement for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) and Serbia. About one third of all asylum seekers in Germany came from a successor state of the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Experts note that this rapid increase may also be traced back to the higher cash payments for asylum seekers on which the Federal Constitutional Court decided last July (Welt, DE, 15/1).

- Independent, UK, 15/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130115/mi/item_145252276.pdf
- Welt, DE, 15/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130115/mi/item_145228643.pdf

Iceland's government agreed to slow talks on joining the European Union as it prepares for parliamentary elections on April 27, according to a statement from the prime minister's office. The government, formed by the Social Democrats and the Left-Green Party and which is lagging in opinion polls, said no talks on new policy areas with the EU would be opened. Negotiations under way would continue, but no decisions would be made. Most Icelanders oppose continuing the membership bid and want the island's government to withdraw it, according to a November Capacent Gallup poll (novinite.com. BG, 14/1). Conflict with several EU countries concerning compensation for foreign savers due to the failure of Icelandic bank Icesave, disputes over fishing and the euro crisis have raised again the traditional scepticism of Icelanders towards the European Union (ideal.es, ES, 14/1).

- novinite.com. BG, 14/1, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=146845
- ideal.es, ES, 14/1, http://www.ideal.es/agencias/20130114/mas-actualidad/internacional/islandia-suspende-negociaciones-ingreso-proximidad_201301141711.html

In other negotiations the UN mediator in the Greek-Macedonian name dispute, Matthew Nimetz, started a new round of the negotiations. According to information released, Nimetz has invited the negotiators of the two countries – Zoran Jolevski and Adamantos Vasilakis, to meet in New York on January 29-30 (focus-fen.net, BG, 15/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 15/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n296937>

The European Commission has started increasing pressure on Slovenia and Croatia in order to encourage the resolution of the question of Ljubljanska banka, which could, in the worst case, delay the planned accession of Croatia to the EU on 1 July. After meeting with the head of Croatian diplomacy Vesna Pusic, Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle called upon Slovenia and Croatia to step up efforts to achieve a mutually acceptable solution as soon as possible. Up until now, the EU has dealt with Ljubljanska banka as a bilateral issue related to succession, Delo explains (Delo, SI, 15/1).

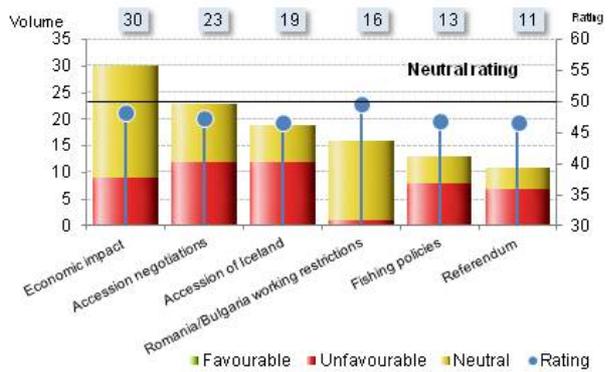
- Delo, SI, 15/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130115/mi/item_145248582.pdf

Key Quotes

Serbia considers the possibility of Kosovo joining the UN. "We can agree on everything," said Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić (Romania Libera, Romania, 16/1)
<http://www.romanalibera.ro/actualitate/europa/serbia-ia-in-calcul-possibilitatea-aderarii-kosovo-la-onu-290333.html>

Charts

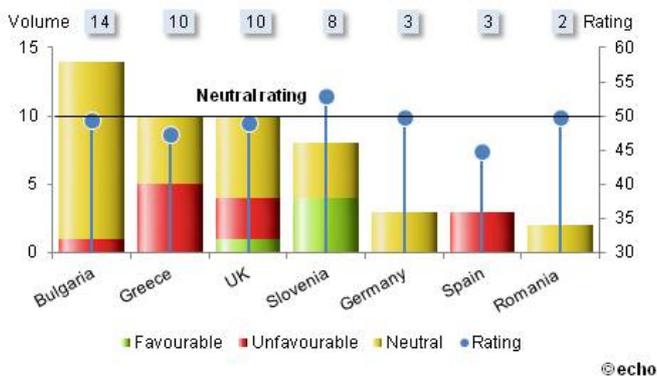
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Neutral %	66%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Eric Pickles (Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, UK)	15
Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir (Prime Minister, Iceland)	12
Össur Skarphéðinsson (Foreign Minister, Iceland)	10
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	10
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	7
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	6
France Arhar (Financial expert, Slovenia)	4
Zdravko Rogić (Financial expert, Croatia)	4

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