



Summary

The Stuttgarter-Zeitung suggests that Serbia appears to be having difficulty finding a solution to Kosovo and continues to reject a formal recognition of its former province. It adds however that Serbian media identify signs of a change of course in the country's policies towards Kosovo; that Serbia has softened its position in relation to this (Stuttgarter-Zeitung, DE, 16/1). In addition Serbia has hinted that it may compromise over a seat at the UN for Kosovo in return for being allowed to join the EU. Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić, was reported by The Times (UK, 16/1) as saying: "We are seeking a comprehensive settlement."

- Stuttgarter-Zeitung, DE, 16/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130115/mi/item_145286295.pdf
- Times, UK, 16/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130116/mi/item_145331418.pdf

Slovenian MEP Jelko Kacin (ALDE/LDS) rejected a statement by Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić, who said in Brussels that the only issue that could delay the country's accession to the EU was related to Slovenia. Kacin said the only government able to delay Croatia's joining the EU was its own (sta.si, SI, 15/1) adding Croatia "is confronting its neighbour, a member of the EU, at the least appropriate time" (sta.si, SI, 15/1). In Slovenia, Dnevnik reports that the government crisis in Slovenia could reduce the time for finding a solution for the Ljubljanska Banka. It comments that the political crisis in Slovenia has occurred in the period when two important foreign policy matters relating to Croatia have to be solved by the government. While the memorandum concerning the border dispute is not expected to cause any complications, the ratification of Croatia's accession treaty with the EU is a different story (Dnevnik, SI, 16/1).

- sta.si, SI, 15/1, <http://www.sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1842651>
- sta.si, SI, 15/1, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1842394>
- Dnevnik, SI, 16/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130116/mi/item_145359940.pdf

The economic impact of enlargement has encouraged calls for UK withdrawal from the EU. The Daily Express suggests that unless action is taken soon, it will be too late to prevent the EU attaining its objective of destroying the harmony and unity that the UK as a nation has traditionally enjoyed, by forcing it to open our borders to yet more immigrants from Eastern Europe. The piece says that in the EU's determination to create a United States of Europe, it needs to destroy any sense of national unity wherever it exists. As long as the UK remains in the EU, there will be no stopping this relentless flow of migrants into the country with all the problems of housing, schooling, etc, associated with it (Daily-Express, UK, 16/1).

As a counterpoint, in Bulgaria, Trud daily, quoting NRC Handelsblad, said that the Dutch xenophobic website of far-right politician Geert Wilders suffered a total failure. The website was launched last spring so that Dutch citizens can lodge complaints against immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe. About 40,000 complaints were made about immigrants compared to 135,000 complaints about the website itself. NRC Handelsblad commented that there indeed is an influx of Eastern European immigrants, but it should be pointed out that they take jobs local citizens do not want (Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 16/1).

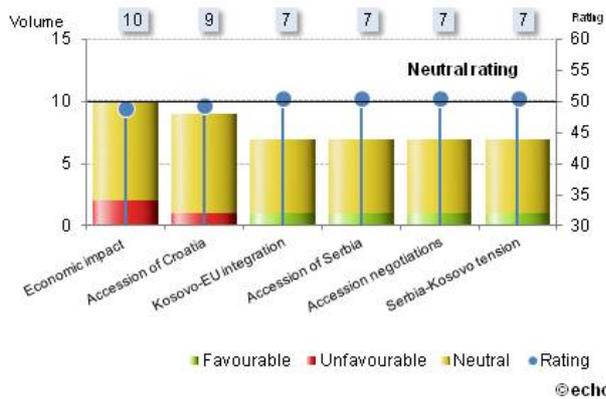
- Daily-Express, UK, 16/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130116/mi/item_145331374.pdf
- Trud-Daily-Bulgaria, BG, 16/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130116/mi/item_145343543.pdf

Key Quotes

The prime ministers of Kosovo and Serbia are due to meet on January 17 in Brussels in talks mediated by the European Union. Kosovo's Hashim Thaçi and Serbia's Ivica Dačić are expected to focus on the thorny issue of northern Kosovo, where Serbs are in control and refuse to recognize the authority of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian government. (rferl.org, Czech, 17/1) <http://www.rferl.org/content/serb-kosovo-prime-ministers-meeting/24840304.html>

Charts

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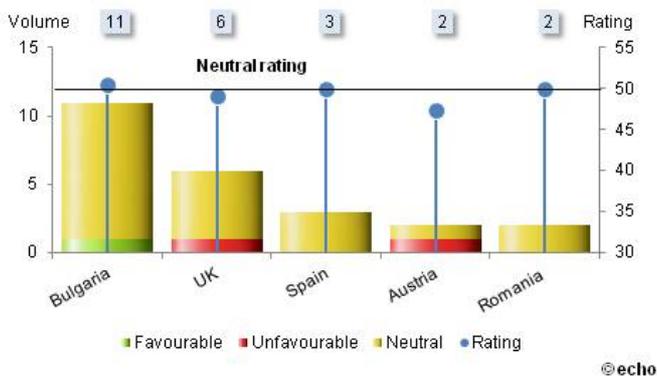
Volume	28 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	7.1%
Unfavourable %	7.1%
Neutral %	85.8%

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

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	3
Vesna Pusić (Foreign Minister, Croatia)	2
Eric Pickles (Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, UK)	2
France Arhar (Financial expert, Slovenia)	2
Jelko Kacin (MEP)	2
Zdravko Rogić (Financial expert, Croatia)	2
John Rowan (Ambassador of Ireland to Bulgaria)	2
Geert Wilders (PVV politician, Netherlands)	2

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