



## Summary

The fourth round of dialogue between the Serbian and Kosovo Prime Ministers, which, for the first time touched on the issue of the north of Kosovo, received different interpretations; whilst the Kosovo Prime Minister, Hashim Thaçi informed the media that the Serbian side had agreed to dissolve the parallel security structure in the north of Kosovo, his Serbian counterpart denied this and said that they started the talks on the special status of the Serbian minority in the region (Delo, SI, 21/1). European Council President Herman Van Rompuy promised, after a meeting with Prime Minister Ivica Dačić of Serbia, that the European Union will fulfil its obligations to Serbia. On his side, Mr Dačić said that his country expects the immediate commencement of negotiations on accession to the EU (newsbeast.gr, EL, 18/1).

- Delo, SI, 21/1, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130121/mi/item\\_146113870.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130121/mi/item_146113870.pdf)
- newsbeast.gr, EL, 18/1, <http://www.newsbeast.gr/world/arthro/475767/pisti-stis-upohreoseis-tis-sti-servia-i-ee/>

In Serbia's south, meanwhile, more than 200 heavily-armed and masked Serbian police took down a memorial to ethnic Albanian guerrillas overnight, trying to end a row that has highlighted still-simmering tension in the region. The scale of the operation, which followed weeks of threats and counter-threats between Serbian government officials and local ethnic Albanians, highlighted how fragile the situation remains in the south. NATO had brokered a peace deal and Serbia pledged greater rights and economic opportunity for the south but progress has been patchy, and southern Serbia remains the poorest region of a country now aiming to join the European Union. "*Serbia has shown enough patience, but it has also sent a clear and strong message that the law must be respected and that no one is stronger than the state,*" Ivica Dačić said. Tensions in the region, known as the Presevo Valley, have the potential to complicate EU-mediated talks between Serbia and Kosovo aimed at normalising their relations (uk.reuters.com, UK, 20/1). "*The move by the Serbian government seriously endangers the process of a dialogue on normalisation of ties between Kosovo and Serbia,*" said a government statement from Pristina. Galip Beqiri, the Head of the Albanian National Council condemned the monument's removal as "*an unacceptable act of vandalism*" (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 20/1).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 20/1, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/01/20/uk-serbia-albanians-tensions-idUKBRE90J07A20130120>
- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 20/1, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/police-remove-monument-albanian-rebels-serbia-131739025.html>

In other negotiations Iceland's fisheries minister, Steingrímur Sigfússon, warned Brussels, concerning their trade dispute. "*This year we will achieve nothing. The fishing season is just beginning, and will probably have to pass first*". The rest of the talks on a possible EU membership are therefore further complicated according to Spiegel.de, (DE, 20/1).

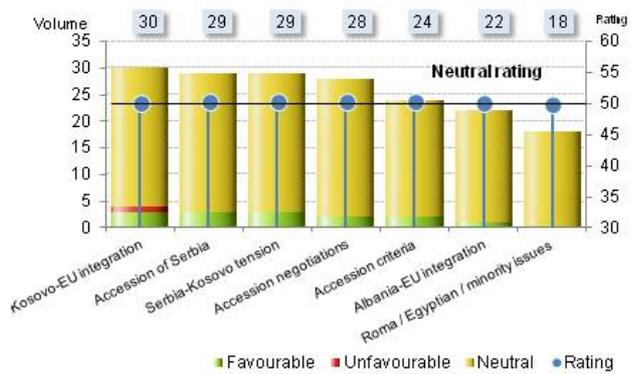
- spiegel.de, DE, 20/1 <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/streit-um-fischfang-island-bleibt-unbeugsam-im-makrelenkrieg-a-878446.html>

## Key Quotes

**Political report on media freedom in the EU recommends regular monitoring on public media. All EU member states should make regular assessment of their media environment, while accession of new EU member states may be bound to their level of media freedom** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 22/1) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n297497>

## Charts

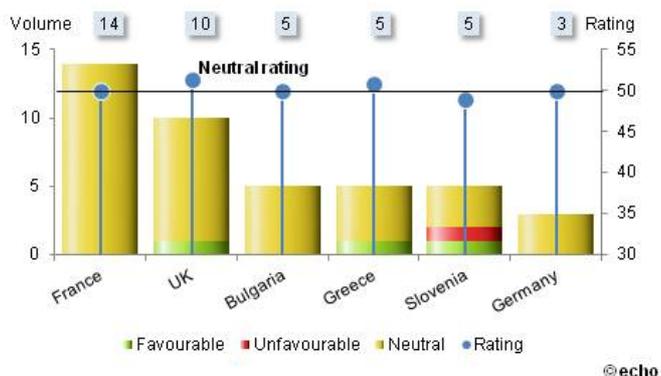
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Neutral %	89.1%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	27
Galip Beqiri (Head of Albanian National Council)	15
Riza Halimi (Head of UCPMB Political Wing, Albania)	15
Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council)	9
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	6
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	5
Steingrímur Sigfússon (Fisheries Minister, Iceland)	3

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