



Summary

Montenegro is in a 'crucial phase' in its path towards European Union membership during which it must accelerate reforms of state laws, fundamental rights and the fight against corruption and organised crime said EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso after talks with Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović. In particular, Barroso stressed the importance of "completing the constitutional reform to ensure the independence of the judicial system" (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 21/1).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 21/1, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2013/01/21/Montenegro-Barroso-ora-momento-cruciale-percorso-verso-Ue_8110810.html

On enlargement in general, the Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said that countries would not be admitted which needed follow-up monitoring, in a reference to Romania and Bulgaria, which joined the EU in 2007 but required continued scrutiny due to problems with corruption and organised crime. He said "lessons have been learned" to ensure members were ready to join before being admitted (focus-fen.net, BG, 22/1). Füle also said that the entry of new countries into the European Union was not a problem, but "part of the solution" taken to overcome the economic crisis (ideal.es, ES, 21/1). In addition, a report on media freedom in the EU, commissioned by EC Vice-President Neelie Kroes, stated that freedom of the media should be part of a clear assessment of EU candidate countries and the availability of media should be locked in as a precondition (mediapool.bg, BG, 21/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 22/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n297515>
- ideal.es, ES, 21/1, http://www.ideal.es/agencias/20130121/mas-actualidad/internacional/fule-dice-ampliacion-ayudara-solucionar_201301211900.html
- mediapool.bg, BG, 21/1 (no link available)

The Romanian ambassador to the UK, Ion Jinga, has hit out at UK press speculation that tens of thousands of Romanians and Bulgarians will come to work in the UK in 2014. Mr Jinga said 'it is totally ungrounded to circulate in the media that hundreds of thousands of Romanians will come' (workpermit.com, UK, 21/1). The Romanian President Traian Basescu stated that he "guaranteed that Romanians will not invade Great Britain in 2014" (ziare.com, RO, 21/1). In Bulgaria focus-fen.net suggested that the comparison between 26 million Romanians and Bulgarians and 70 million Eastern Europeans in 2004 is false, and not just because they are fewer in total. Back then Britain was the only major EU economy to open its doors to the Poles and others but this time all countries are in it together, including Germany, France and Spain which, for historic reasons, have closer ties. It ignores the fact Romanians and Bulgarians are already free to come to Britain, albeit with employment shackles (focus-fen.net, BG, 22/1).

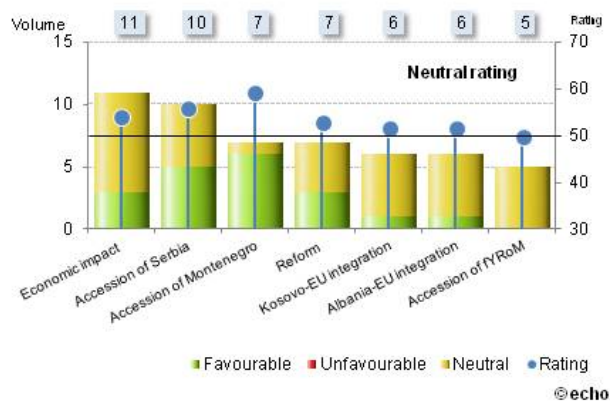
- workpermit.com, UK, 21/1, <http://www.workpermit.com/news/2013-01-21/romanian-ambassador-dismisses-uk-tabloid-immigration-fears>
- ziare.com, RO, 21/1, <http://www.ziare.com/basescu/presedinte/traian-basescu-garantez-ca-romanii-nu-vor-invada-marea-britanie-din-2014-1213754>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 22/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n297502>

Key Quotes

Many European media ran with similar headlines to De Standaard (NL, 23/01): "Cameron wants referendum on EU membership", http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=DMF20130123_00442874.

Charts

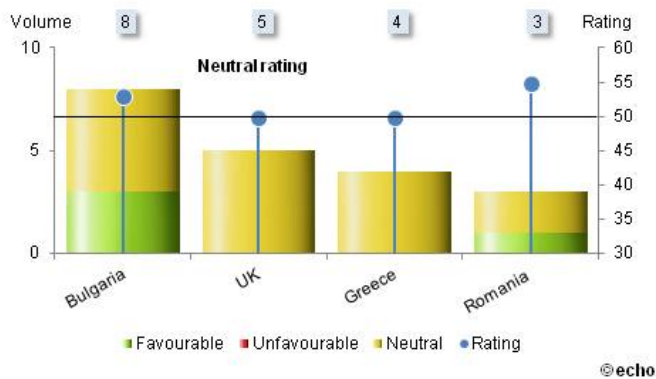
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Neelie Kroes (Digital Agenda Commissioner, EC)	4
Nemat Shafik (Deputy Managing Director, IMF)	4
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	9
Lucinda Creighton (Minister of State for European Affairs, Ireland)	3
Jose Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	2
Rosen Plevneliev (President, Bulgaria)	2
Milo Đukanović (Prime Minister, Montenegro)	2

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