

Summary

The European Commission will release the CVM report on Romanian judiciary next week. Foreign press asked for comment on implications that the newly proposed status of the MPs adopted on Tuesday January 22, would make it harder to lift the immunity of Senators and Deputies and would also reduce the powers of the main anti-corruption body. EC spokesperson, Mark Gray, replied that the Commission will refer to this in the report due next week. *"To be very open, I've seen various interpretations of what was passed yesterday and we will want to take a detailed look into the matter. What is clear to the EC, and I have said this repeatedly, is that those in power must make sure that they have no integrity issues linked to them. That has been, and is our stance, but we need to see exactly what Parliament adopted yesterday and this will also be reflected in next week's report"*(Curentul, RO, 24/1).

- Curentul, RO, 24/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130124/mi/item_146637937.pdf

Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev has demonstrated a harder stance with respect to relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM), indicating that Bulgaria could use its veto with respect to the fYRoM's accession process, unless good-neighbourliness is observed. He believes that the responsible position for Bulgaria is not to keep quiet but to impose a veto in the course of the talks concerning the fYRoM's accession to the EU while being as well-intentioned as possible (novinite.com, BG, 23/1). In an interview he commented; *"Let's make it clear – Bulgaria is not a second Greece. Bulgaria does not conduct a war; not to mention the absurd thesis that we are addressing some internal issues with regard to the upcoming parliamentary elections,"* (focus-fen.net, BG, 24/1). Following the General Affairs Council in December 2012, Štefan Füle visited Skopje. The EC Delegation in the fYRoM capital said in a statement: *"In the meetings he reviewed preparations for the Spring Report. The Commissioner had useful discussions with his interlocutors. Commissioner Füle will return to Skopje in due course in the context of the High Level Accession Dialogue"* (novinite.com, BG, 23/1).

- novinite.com, BG, 23/1, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=147131
- focus-fen.net, BG, 24/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n297692>
- novinite.com, BG, 23/1, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=147155

Kosovo on Wednesday named its first envoy to Serbia since the 1998-99 war which split the two countries, part of a fresh push by the European Union to resolve relations between the Balkan neighbours and cement stability in the volatile region. Kosovo's government said Lulzim Peci, currently Pristina's ambassador to Sweden, would become its "ambassador" to Serbia. Serbia, which does not recognise Kosovo as a state, is expected to name its envoy within days, though Belgrade insists neither representative will have diplomatic status. They will work out of the EU offices in Belgrade and Pristina. The step is part of a push by the EU to nudge the two towards functional, neighbourly relations, and for Serbia to drop its grip on a Serb-populated pocket of northern Kosovo. (uk.reuters.com, UK, 23/4). However, despite the agreement on normalisation of the border between Kosovo and Serbia reached in Brussels, Kosovo customs and military officers from EULEX continue facing difficulties accessing the northern part of the country (focus-fen.net, BG, 24/1).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 23/4, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/01/23/uk-kosovo-serbia-idUKBRE90M17V20130123?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 24/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n297689>

Key Quotes

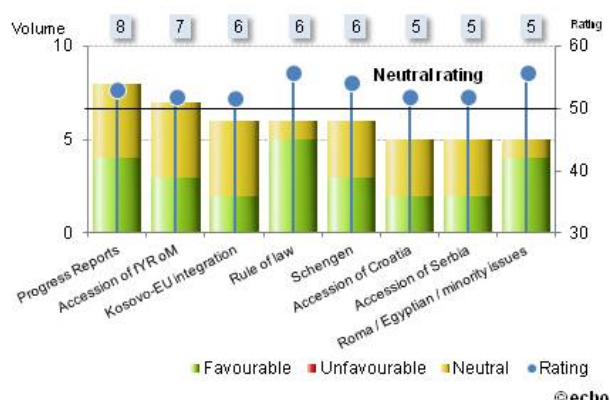
The last chance for Turkey in the EU? (ABC.es, Spain, 25/1)

<http://www.abc.es/internacional/20130125/abci-ultima-oportunidad-para-turquia-201301242021.html>

Dnevnik, Macedonia: Füle pulls 'red card' for new parliamentary elections. Füle remarked that Macedonia should not miss the chance given by Brussels – to get a date for launching the EU accession talks after registering a slight progress in the name issue negotiations with Greece (Focus News, Bulgaria, 25/1) <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n297777>

Charts

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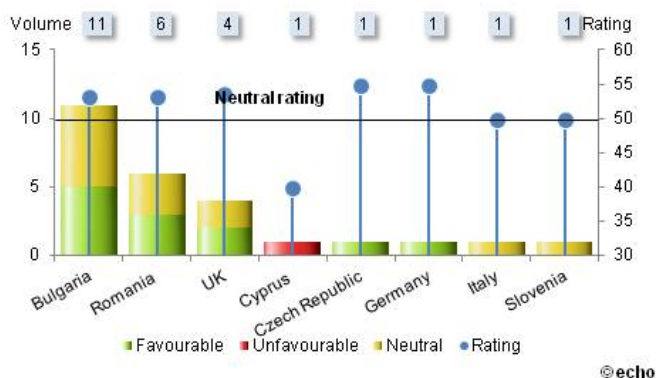
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Volume	26 items
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Favourable %	46.2%
Unfavourable %	3.8%
Neutral %	50%

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Mark Gray (Spokesperson, EC)	6
Rosen Plevneliev (Bulgaria President)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Viviane Reding (Commissioner for Justice, EC)	3
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	3
Nikola Gruevski (President, FYRoM)	3
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	3

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