

Summary

In Slovenia the government failed to adopt a report dealing with the border dispute with Croatia, Prime Minister Janez Janša told a press conference following the cabinet session on Thursday (sta.si, SI, 24/1). Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, warned "*We don't want a bilateral 'mine' to explode in the middle of the accession process*" (sta.si, SI, 24/1). According to Vecernji list, the European Commission fears that the Slovenian-Croatian case could become a precedent for any further enlargement of the European Union, which could be quite difficult because of unresolved bilateral issues between two countries. Some in the European Commission believe that the current issue of the Ljubljana Bank is solvable through the mechanism of arbitration. The International Court of Justice in The Hague could, in Štefan Füle's opinion, also serve to deal with any future accession problems (siol.net, SI, 25/1).

- sta.si, SI, 24/1, <http://www.sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1846327>
- sta.si, SI, 24/1, <http://sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=1846215>
- siol.net, SI, 25/1, http://www.siol.net/novice/svet/2013/01/fuele_o_vstopu_hrvaske_v_eu.aspx

Vecer daily of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) reports that Greece refuses to hold meetings and accuses the fYRoM of seeking a way to get round the name row instead of looking for a solution. At a press conference on Thursday the spokesperson for the Greek Foreign Ministry said that the Greek authorities were showing goodwill with proposals for memorandum of understanding, which revived the process headed by UN mediator Matthew Nimetz. Grigoris Delavekouras expressed his sorrow at the lack of response from the fYRoM (focus-fen.net, BG, 25/1). The fYRoM also accuses Greece of trying to artificially create a Greek minority in the fYRoM through financing Greek language courses in the border regions. According to local residents, those who subscribed for the courses, were rewarded with a free holiday in Greece (focus-fen.net, BG, 24/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 25/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n297780>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 24/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n297682>

In other negotiations the Montenegrin ruling party on Thursday nominated outgoing president Filip Vujanovic as its candidate for the April 7 election, despite opposition complaints that the constitution bars him from running again for the largely ceremonial post. The country is next in line behind Croatia among the countries carved from socialist Yugoslavia aiming to join the bloc, but it is under pressure to root out endemic corruption and deeply-rooted organised crime (trust.org, UK, 24/1).

- trust.org, UK, 24/1, <http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/news/detail.dot?id=5d89dfdf-578e-4393-9372-330cbf0342d3>

Romania needs to make progresses in the reform of the Judiciary and in the anti-corruption fight in order to join the Schengen area, along with the technical modernisation of borders, claim the German and French Ambassadors, Andreas Von Mettenheim, and Philippe Gustin. The two officials have insisted on combatting corruption, the French Ambassador having stated that meeting the technical aspects regarding borders will not be enough, given Romania and Bulgaria's location close to immigration basins which generate concern among EU countries. (Curierul-National, RO, 25/1).

- Curierul-National, RO, 25/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130125/mi/item_146747994.pdf

The positive economic impact of enlargement was felt last year by the Czech Republic. It received from the EU budget CZK 74 billion more than it contributed to it. Právo comments that the figure mentioned is the highest since the Czech Republic's EU accession in 2004. The difference between revenues and expenses was CZK 43 billion lower in 2011. According to the Ministry of Finance, the extraordinarily increase is caused mainly by drawing EU money from some previously-problematic funds (Pravo, CZ, 25/1).

- Pravo, CZ, 25/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130125/mi/item_146756001.pdf

Negative coverage in Spain resulted from 2 articles suggesting that the European Commission had issued a 'devastating' progress on Turkey. The Turkish Minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bağış said the report gave space to "*unfair and unfounded assumptions of extremists in parts of Europe*" and called it a "*deliberate attempt to damage Turkey's efforts.*"

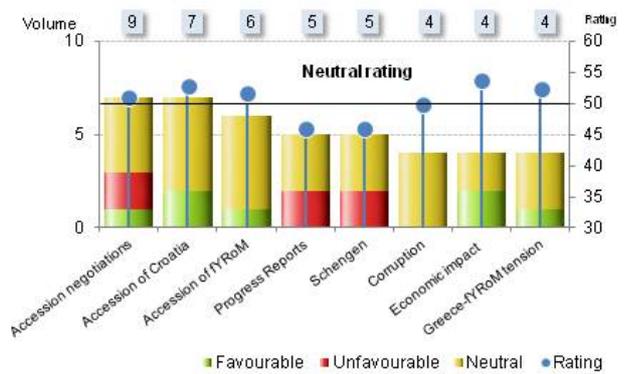
- abc.es, ES, 25/1, <http://www.abc.es/internacional/20130125/abci-ultima-oportunidad-para-turquia-201301242021.html>
- abcdesevilla.es, ES, 25/1 (as above)

Key Quotes

When Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union in 2005 the Government imposed curbs on the number of migrants who could come here to live and work. Mark Pritchard said: "*The question now arises about continued EU migration from countries like Bulgaria and Romania and whether action should be taken on reducing it over the next 12 months before -transitional controls are lifted rather than waiting a full five years for further action.*" (Mirror.co.uk, UK, 28/1)
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/not-so-great-britain-tories-slag-off-1559731>

Charts

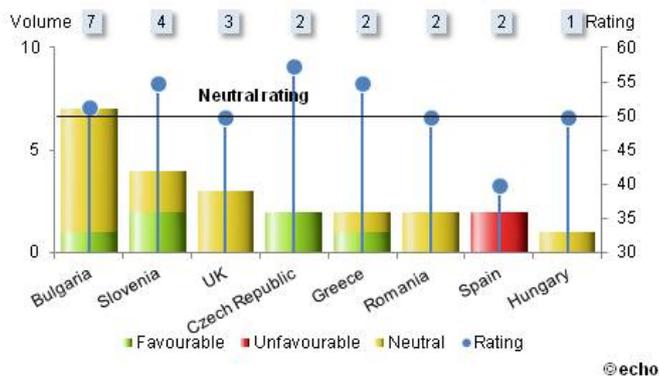
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ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	23 items
Rating	51.5
Favourable %	26.1%
Unfavourable %	8.7%
Neutral %	65.2%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Andreas Von Mettenheim (German Ambassador to Romania)	3
Philippe Gustin (French Ambassador to Romania)	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	2
Egemen Bağış (Minister for EU Affairs, Turkey)	2
Karl Erjavec (Foreign Minister, Slovenia)	2
Stoyko Stoykov (Politician, FYRoM)	2
Matthew Nimetz (Special Representative for the Naming Dispute between Greece and the FYRoM, UN)	2

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