

Summary

In a story on the effects of enlargement it was reported that the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and Croatia's accession will make 13 countries lose seats in the European Parliament. The treaty brought down the number of MEPs by three to 751 and Croatia was initially granted 12 seats. The cap at 96 MEPs per country has led to Germany losing three seats (Dziennik-Gazeta-Prawna, PO, 30/1).

- Dziennik-Gazeta-Prawna, PO, 30/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130130/mi/item_147196704.pdf

President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Austrian Hannes Swoboda, visited Slovenia with MEP Mojca Kleva Kekuš for a discussion with young people. Mr Swoboda expressed his conviction that Slovenia and Croatia will find a solution to the Ljubljanska Banka dispute. By not ratifying the accession treaty, Slovenia would send the wrong signal to Europe, with negative consequences for the country. He added that the process had affected the reputation of Slovenia and lessened the credibility and trustworthiness of Slovenian politicians (Delo, SI, 30/1). Zagreb fears that the turmoil in Slovenia could delay Croatia's EU accession. The Croatian President is concerned: "*If Slovenia doesn't ratify Croatia's accession agreement soon, Croatia won't join the EU on July 1*" (Presse-Austria, AT, 30/1).

- Delo, SI, 30/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130130/mi/item_147195526.pdf
- Presse-Austria, AT, 30/1, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130130/mi/item_147197122.pdf

The Dutch parliament agreed with Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, that the EU has learned from the mistakes made when Romania and Bulgaria joined in 2007. After their accession, it became clear that these countries were not meeting the conditions laid down and should not have been admitted (nos.nl, NE, 29/1). The Romanian government issued a communiqué in which it claims that all points agreed last summer with the European Commission President were completely fulfilled and assures that it will remain "*profoundly committed*" to ensuring the independence of the judiciary and strengthening the rule of law (focus-fen.net, BG, 30/1). Former Justice Minister Catalin Predoiu said he is afraid that the European Commission's progress report will be '*painted in dark colours*' (money.ro, 30/1).

- nos.nl, NE, 29/1, <http://nos.nl/artikel/467943-kamer-steunt-toetreding-kroatie.html>
- (focus-fen.net, BG, 30/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n298232>
- money.ro, 30/1, http://www.money.ro/predoiu-mi-e-teama-ca-raportul-mcv-va-fi-un-tablou-pictat-in-tonuri-sumbre_1239303.html

On the question of the economic impact of enlargement much of the UK media continued to question the arrival of Bulgarian and Romanian migrants (Daily-Express, Daily-Telegraph and Daily-Mail 30/1). However the Romanian press reported that Great Britain had been sanctioned by the EC for its attitude towards Romanians and Bulgarians (ziare.com, RO, 29/1).

- Daily-Express, UK, 30/1, <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/374313/79-say-we-must-ban-EU-migrants/>
- Daily-Telegraph, UK, 30/1
- Daily-Mail, UK, 30/1
- ziare.com, RO, 29/1, <http://www.ziare.com/diaspora/romani-marea-britanie/marea-britanie-sanctionata-de-ce-pentru-atitudinea-fata-de-romani-si-bulgari-1215577>

Representatives of Northern Kosovo Serbs have approached the Constitutional Court of Serbia by letter, in which they declare the agreements of the Kosovo-Serbian dialogue as unconstitutional. This action was led by Stefan Vozovic, Chairman of the "parallel" municipal structure of Serbs in Zubin Potok. "*We believe that Serbia and the Kosovo Serbs must not allow the implementation of the agreements that have been reached in Brussels, with a view to the fact that they legitimate the border police and customs offices in a country, which is not internationally recognised*", the letter reads (focus-fen.net, BG, 30/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 30/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n298225>

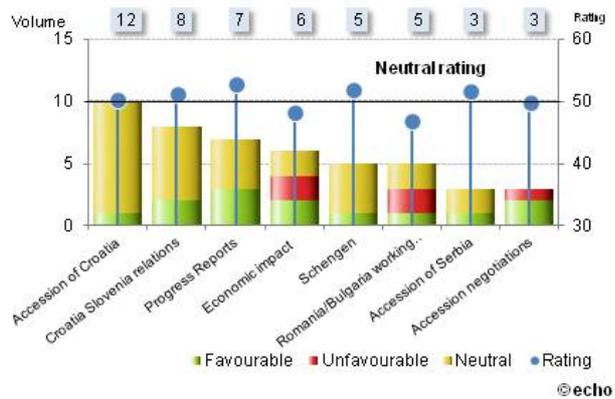
Key Quotes

Utrinski Vesnik, Macedonia: Gruevski, (Menduh) Thaçi in some pre-elections flirting. "*The Prime Minister and I have different positions on many issues, but we agreed on one thing – the process of European integration should be a priority of all political parties,*" (Focus News, Bulgaria, 31/1)

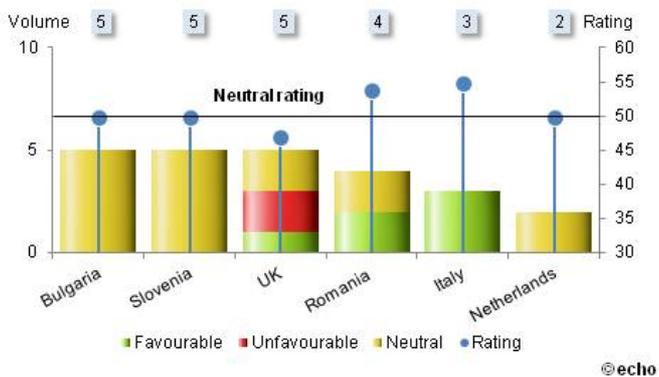
<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n298289>

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Volume	27 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	22.2%
Unfavourable %	11.1%
Neutral %	66.7%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
Hannes Swoboda (MEP)	3
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	3
Philip Hollobone (Conservative MP, UK)	3

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