



## Summary

The European Union would struggle to be strong and efficient without Turkey, said the Italian Ambassador to Turkey, Gianpaolo Scarante, underlining that Ankara and Brussels both had important roles to play. "I don't think there are alternatives the ambassador told the Hurriyet daily in Istanbul, when asked to comment on the recent debate on Turkey's possible membership to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, *"The EU is an important pillar of Turkey. Europe is in your history and in the future, Turkey will be an important pillar of the EU. In the future of Europe there will be Turkey, I believe"* (ansamed.info, IT, 11/2). According to Cem Özdemir, Co-chair of Germany's Green Party, the best support the European Union can give to the peace process Ankara has started to settle in relation to the Kurdish problem is to make it clear that Europeans are serious about bringing Turkey into the 27-nation bloc (france24.com, FR, 12/2).

- ansamed.info, IT, 11/2, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/02/11/Turkey-EU-strong-EU-Ankara-says-Italian-envoy\\_8225974.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/europe/2013/02/11/Turkey-EU-strong-EU-Ankara-says-Italian-envoy_8225974.html)
- france24.com, FR, 12/2, <http://www.france24.com/en/20130211-eu-support-peace-kurds-supporting-turkish-membership-ozdemir>

In Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga met new head of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, EULEX, Berndt Borchardt. Jahjaga welcomed Mr Borchardt's appointment and stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the EU organisation and institutions in Kosovo concerning the protection and observation of public order (focus-fen.net, BG, 12/2). Also in Kosovo, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry Mimoza Kusari-Lila met with Joost Korte, Deputy Director of the Directorate General for Enlargement and his team to discuss Kosovo's EU integration and the implementation of the short-term priorities, which are a precondition for the launching of the negotiations over the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. According to government sources, more than 70% of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement concerns the establishment of free trade relations between Kosovo and the EU, in which the Ministry of Trade and Industry plays a key role (focus-news.net, BG, 12/2).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299209>
- focus-news.net, BG, 12/2, <http://www.focus-news.net/index.php?id=n1748177>

Elsewhere it was reported by Delo that politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina have angered EU officials by not preparing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, and by not complying with the verdict of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the Sejdić and Finci case at the end of 2009. They added that the EU, UN and U.S. administration were unable to hide their anger at the Bosnian-Herzegovinian leaders, who cannot agree on anything, except to meet in one of the restaurants where the food is good and "discuss". The EU has thus threatened to freeze the country's accession negotiations until 2015 (Delo, SI, 12/2).

- Delo, SI, 12/2, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130212/mi/item\\_148426285.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130212/mi/item_148426285.pdf)

In Bulgaria Prime Minister Boyko Borisov said at a press conference after meeting with his Croatian counterpart Zoran Milanovic *"Late last night I had a phone conversation with the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, because there is serious progress in the talks over the good neighbourly relations between the two countries"* (focus-fen.net, BG, 12/2).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 12/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299247>

## Key Quotes

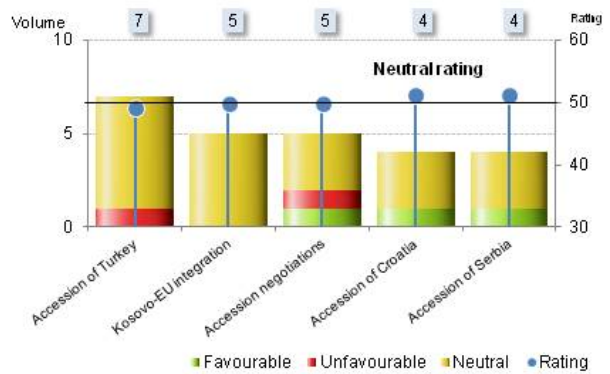
**Former Albanian prime minister, Pandeli Majko, said that the independence of Kosovo has changed the status and the geopolitical position of the Albanian nation in the region. *"History is nothing, if nothing is being done. Albanians won independent existence, but they lost half of their territory, while Kosovo is the price that had to be paid. In 1919 Albania was divided by Kosovo and it was like the separation of twins with different fates. In 1999 Albanians' historical battle for Kosovo was won and today Kosovo is officially a recognised country. Soon, when Kosovo joins the UN, the historical process of the formation of the Albanian nation will be finalised,"*** (Focus News, Bulgaria, 13/2). <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299308>

**Netherlands significantly softened its position on Bulgaria's Schengen** (Dnevnik.bg, Bulgaria, 13/2)

[http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/novini\\_ot\\_es/2013/02/13/2002039\\_holandia\\_e\\_smekchila\\_poziciata\\_si\\_za\\_vlzaneto\\_na/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/novini_ot_es/2013/02/13/2002039_holandia_e_smekchila_poziciata_si_za_vlzaneto_na/?ref=rss)

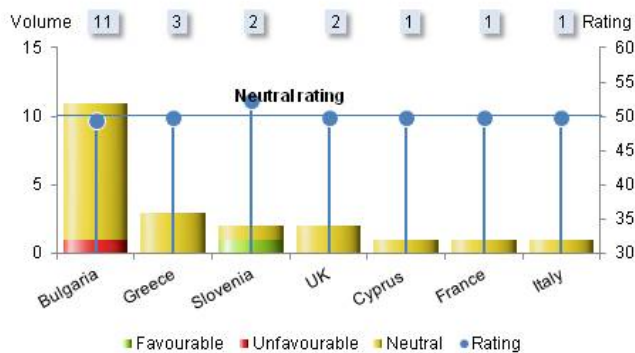
## Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
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ELARG: **Highlights**  
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Volume	21 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	4.8%
Unfavourable %	4.8%
Neutral %	90.4%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Zoran Milanović (Prime Minister, Croatia)	3
Boyko Borisov (Prime Minister, Bulgaria)	3
Traian Băsescu (President, Romania)	2
Victor Ponta (Prime Minister, Romania)	2
Mark Harper (Minister of State for Immigration, UK)	2
Elmar Brok (MEP)	2

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