



Summary

There was widespread reporting of Kosovo's celebration of the fifth anniversary of its declaration of independence. "*The Republic of Kosovo is an irrefutable and undeniable reality*," Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga said (Focus News, BG, 18/2 and bbc.co.uk, 18/2).

- [focus-fen.net](http://www.focus-fen.net), BG, 18/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299712>
- bbc.co.uk UK, 18/2 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21492473>

In an interview in "Der Standard", former Turkish minister Kemal Derviş thought his country ought to follow the British path and that Europe has to "*redefine and reinvent its institutions*". It ought to be "*looking at the ongoing accession process from a different angle, and Europe should do the same. Because if a new Europe emerges from the crisis, then the question of the Turkish EU membership is also going to have a new framework*" (Standard, AT, 15/2). In the UK, the Daily Express said Turkey is too big, too poor and too Muslim and would be the second biggest country in the EU. It also said the Turks aren't bothered about joining the EU, much of Europe doesn't want them to join anyway and EU mandarins who criticise Turkey are handing out money for a railway line there that's of no use to UK citizens. (Daily-Express, UK, 15/2). The softening of France's attitude towards Turkey was welcomed by EU enlargement commissioner Štefan Füle who tweeted "*France's signal of readiness for the EU to restart discussions on regional policy with Turkey adds to momentum to make 2013 a turning point in our relations*" (novinite.com, BG, 14/2).

Egemen Bagis, in a visit to Stockholm, said Turks were still interested in joining the EU despite the economic problems. "*We should have been members yesterday*", said Bagis. Turkey is often criticised for lack of human rights and free press. A report from OSCE, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, criticised Turkey for long prison sentences for journalists.

- Standard, AT, 15/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130215/mi/item_148747046.pdf
- Daily-Express, UK, 15/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130215/mi/item_148741973.pdf
- [novinite.com](http://www.novinite.com), BG, 14/2, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=147822
- Dagens-Nyheter SE, 15/2 http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130215/mi/item_148732875.pdf

Opendemocracy.net (UK, 15/2) writes that 2013 is set to be an important year for both the Catholic Church, which elects a new pope, and Croatia, which will become the 28th member of the EU. On 5 June, Croatia will officially be inaugurated as the 28th member of the European Union. None are more enthusiastic about this than the Vatican and the Catholic Church in Croatia, for whom it will be the culmination of a decades-long push to have Croatia recognised as the advanced, western-orientated country they believe it deserves to be. The papal nuncio to Croatia, Francisco Javier Loranço, has described Croatia as "the most Catholic country in Europe."

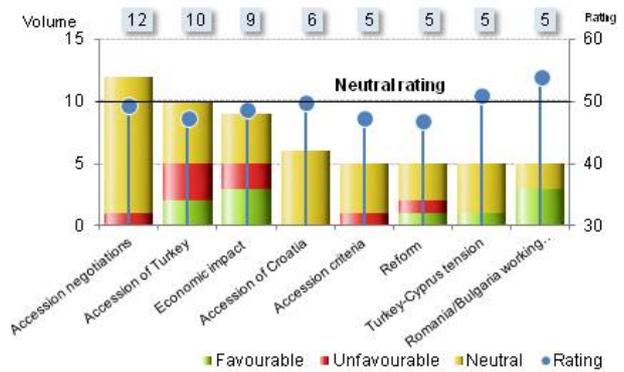
- Opendemocracy.net, UK, 15/2 <http://www.opendemocracy.net/alex-sakalis/most-catholic-country-in-europe-croatia-and-catholic-church>

Key Quotes

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, who has been getting round Macedonia for years, went to Skopje for a meeting with his Macedonian counterpart Nikola Gruevski in the politically most vulnerable moment, answering to the question how come the Bulgarian veto on Macedonia's EU bid turned into a gesture of support when Brussels decided to put an end to the summit dialogue with Macedonia, comments Macedonian Utrinski Vesnik daily (Focus News, Bulgaria, 18/2). <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n299732>

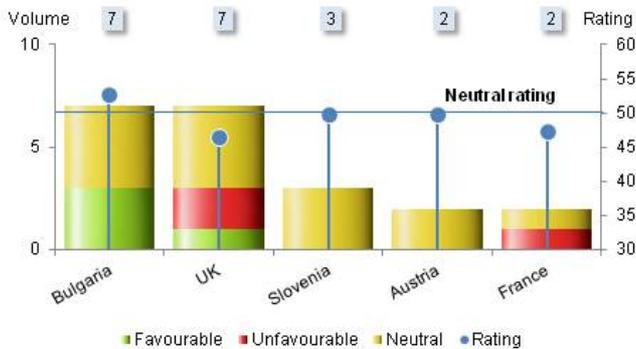
Charts

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



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ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	27 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	22.2%
Unfavourable %	11.1%
Neutral %	66.7%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Viviane Reding (Justice Commissioner, EC)	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Laurent Fabius (Foreign Minister, France)	3
Borut Pahor (President, Slovenia)	3
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	3

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