



Summary

Handelsblatt (DE, 22/2) reported that Turkey has grown into a very important economic as well as geopolitical partner for European countries and that European Commissioner Günther Oettinger was therefore right that the European Union should resume accession talks with Ankara. Since democratic deficits are still too big, accession will not happen very soon anyway. The relationship to Europe is an anchor of stability in this troubled region. A contrary view was expressed in the *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, however which commented that it was unwise of European Commissioner Günther Oettinger to publicly prophesy that, in ten years from now, a French president and a German chancellor would beg Turkey to access the EU. A spokesperson for Ms Merkel made clear that she is not desperate to make Turkey a part of the European Union (*Suddeutsche-Zeitung*, DE, 22/2). ElZoni.gr (GR, 25/2) reported her as saying *"I think a long negotiating path lies ahead of us. Although I am sceptical, I agreed with the continuation of membership discussions. We are engaging in these with an open mind."* According to a recent poll, reported today in Greece, Germans are against EU accession for Turkey; 60% of German voters are against, 30% say they are in favour and 10% have no opinion (EviaRoom.gr, GR, 25/2).

- Handelsblatt, DE, 22/2, <http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130222>
- *Suddeutsche-Zeitung*, DE, 22/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130222/mi/item_149372575.pdf
- Eviaroom.gr, GR, 25/2, <http://www.eviaroom.gr/?p=41957>
- ElZoni.gr, GR, 25/2, http://www.elzoni.gr/html/ent/616/ent.31616.asp/mi/item_149372568.pdf

It was reported by Eleftherotypia (GR, 22/2) that Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM), Nikola Gruevski, and the main opposition leader Branko Crvenkovski, in order to express his deep concern regarding the lack of progress regarding the political situation of the country and urged the two leaders to keep trying to find a solution to restore the country to its European course. *Sega Daily* (BG, 22/2) also reported that Mr Füle had urged the two leaders to work on reaching a compromise that will get the fYRoM back on accession track and that the solution should be sought in Skopje.

- Eleftherotypia, EL, 22/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130222/mi/item_149395808.pdf
- *Sega-Daily*, BG, 22/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130222/mi/item_149393277.pdf

"It is the government of the living dead" says Žarko Korać, a Serbian opposition Member of Parliament. Such talk angers Ivica Dačić, Serbia's Prime Minister who is engaged in delicate talks with Serbia's erstwhile province, Kosovo. Yet the talk at home is only of an early election. *"I have had enough of hearing about it,"* says Mr Dačić who held two days of talks in Brussels this week with Hashim Taçi, Prime Minister of Kosovo. He is prepared to make concessions in order to secure the opening of European Union accession talks in June and because of this it is unlikely that there will be an early election. Aleksandar Vučić leader of the Serbian Progressive Party is riding high in the polls and if Mr Dačić can be blamed for weakness on Kosovo and links to organised crime, and if Serbia gets its EU date, Mr Vučić has every incentive to force an early election. If he waits too long, voters fed up with a weak economy, low incomes and high unemployment might punish him as well (economist.com, UK, 22/2).

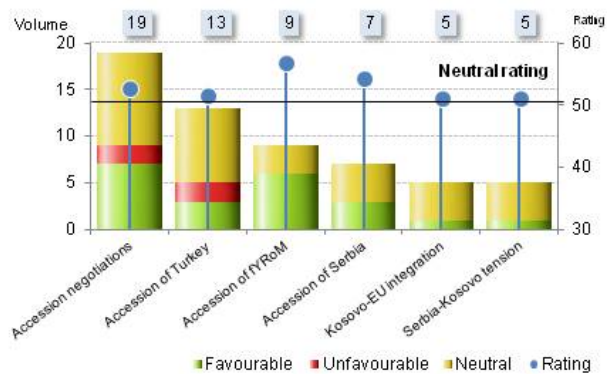
- economist.com, UK, 22/2, <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21572247-serbian-prime-minister-under-pressure-all-sides-trouble-ahead?fsrc=rss|eur>

Key Quotes

None

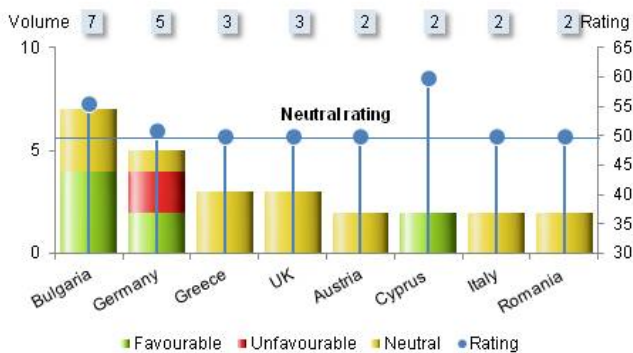
Charts

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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	29 items
Rating	52.2
Favourable %	27.6%
Unfavourable %	6.9%
Neutral %	65.5%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	8
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	8
Günther Oettinger (Commissioner for Energy, EC)	7
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	6
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	5

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