



Summary

Kemal Derviş a former Turkish Minister for Economic Affairs, argues that Europe's future remains uncertain; the euro can only be maintained if fundamental reforms are implemented. The need for change was not anticipated when the EU started accession negotiations with Turkey and if Turkey becomes a member of a flexible EU specific conditions will have to be fulfilled. First, the EU must treat Turkey as an "equal partner". Second, the EU must reinvent itself and Turkey has to be integrated in this process. Third, both sides must use the opportunities provided by the new institutional flexibility (Handelsblatt, DE, 25/2). Christoph Prössl comments on WDR5 that Turkey belongs in the EU. Turkey is closely linked to Europe, not only geographically but also at an economic level. In addition, the country has substantial foreign political influence in countries like Syria. It is wrong to believe that Turkey's accession to the EU would overburden the EU, but this step will only be possible, if Europe changes its agricultural and regional policy. The acknowledgement of Cyprus constitutes a serious problem, but efforts can be achieved as soon as a serious accession commitment is provided. Contrary to European Commissioner Günther Oettinger's prophecy, Angela Merkel will not get on her knees to Ankara, however, she has to change her position (WDR5, DE, 25/2).

- Handelsblatt, DE, 25/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130225/mi/item_149603742.pdf
- WDR5, DE, 25/2 (no link available)

During her third visit to Turkey since taking office, German Chancellor Angela Merkel didn't hold back - and rightly so according to dw.de (DE, 26/2), Turkey is, after all, lagging behind Europe's expectations when it comes to freedom of speech. Imerisia.gr (GR, 26/2) also reported: "*Angela Merkel: I have doubts about Turkey joining the EU.*"

- dw.de, DE, 26/2 <http://www.dw.de/opinion-merkel-and-erdogan-keep-their-distance/a-16628088>
- imerisia.gr, GR, 26/2 <http://www.imerisia.gr/article.asp?catid=26511&subid=2&pubid=113000134>

Germany joined the United States on Friday in telling Albania to stop fanning nationalist sentiment in the Balkans, saying borders between the region's ethnic Albanians would become irrelevant within the European Union. Using the carrot of eventual EU accession, the West quelled ethnic Albanian insurgencies in southern Serbia and Macedonia in the wake of the 1998-99 war, but integration has been slow and dissatisfaction remains high among ethnic Albanians over poverty and unemployment. According to some polls, Albania's nationalist Red and Black Alliance could take third place in the June election on a platform that calls for the unification of Albania and Kosovo (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 22/2).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 22/2, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/germany-tells-albania-stop-fanning-nationalist-fires-154236073.html>

Croatian foreign Minister Vesna Pusić has confirmed the continuation of negotiations on the resolution of the Ljubljanska banka savers dispute with the Slovenia and said that the two countries are currently discussing possible models for the solution, which will serve as the basis for the Slovenian ratification of the Croatian accession treaty. (Vecer, SI, 25/2). In the Netherlands the economic impact of Croatian accession is discussed in an editorial in De Volkskrant (NL, 25/2) which explains why the Netherlands wants to keep its borders closed for Croatian employees, after Croatia's EU accession. Social affairs minister Asscher fears that many Croatians will come to fill in job positions on the already weak Dutch labour market. The article however argues that this fear is not well founded and Mr Asscher is sending an unwelcome signal to Croatia.

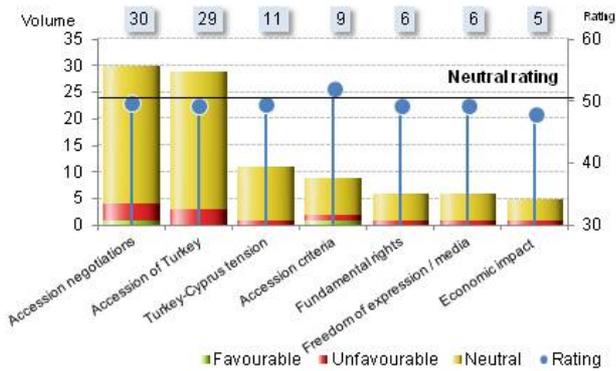
- Vecer, SI, 25/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130225/mi/item_149624294.pdf
- Volkskrant, NL, 25/2, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130225/mi/item_149603989.pdf

Key Quotes

Mediator in the name dispute Matthew Nimitz and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle keep regular communication in the process for finding a solution in the name dispute between Macedonia and Greece, despite only the slightest chance for a new round of talks before the EU report in April (Focus News, Bulgaria, 26/2). <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300412>

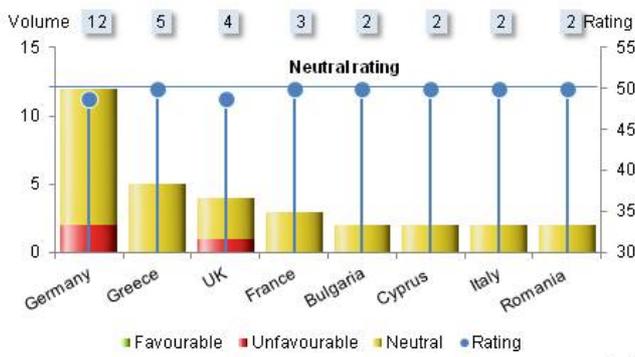
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	26
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	17
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	10
Günther Oettinger (Commissioner for Energy, EC)	8
François Hollande (President, France)	7
Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey)	7

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