



Summary

Espen Barth Eide, Norway's foreign minister, speaking on enlargement said "The UK's possible backing away from the EU is in contrast to Iceland, where many want to join the Brussels club just so they can belong to the euro" and a government advisor in Reykjavik commented "It seems ironic that Britain is thinking of walking away just as we're trying to join up," adding "We've always looked up to the British but I'm not sure we can any more." (Financial-Times, UK, 28/2)

- Financial-Times, UK, 28/2 (no link available)

In a statement on February 27, Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Taçi called on U.S. Deputy State Secretary William Burns to show support for Pristina's stance not to grant its Serbian minority rights that could "undermine the constitution and internal order" (rferl.org, CZ, 27/2). According to Focus-fen.net (BG, 28/2) the Serbian Politika daily reports that the Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić has said that big problems are to be expected in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue; at yet no agreement has been reached and that is why he had not reported anything to parliament. He also added that the authorities in Pristina were not willing to accept anything they are not obliged or made to do.

- rferl.org, CZ, 27/2, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-us-help-serbia-talks/24914743.html>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 28/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300573>

"The process for overcoming the differences with regard to the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) continues, and with the assistance of the good will and constructive approach shown by the two countries involved it should be very possible for us to achieve some progress", commented UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during a meeting with Macedonian President George Ivanov who confirmed that the fYRoM would constructively participate in the dialogue (focus-fen.net, BG, 28/2). Štefan Füle, Enlargement Commissioner commented that EU should not discourage the fYRoM which is ready to start accession negotiations with the European Union and that there is nothing more frustrating than to have no reaction from the European Council (world.actualno.com, BG, 27/2).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 28/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300585>
- world.actualno.com, BG, 27/2, http://world.actualno.com/Fule-ES-ne-trjabva-da-obezkurajava-Makedonija--news_416785.html

The Times (UK, 28/2) continued this week's theme of Turkey's possible accession, reporting that support in Turkey for joining the EU was falling constantly and that according to Cengiz Aktar, an EU affairs specialist : "When Turkey started the negotiating process, the main concern of EU decision-makers was that they had to deal with another poor country like those of Eastern Europe. Today many of those decision-makers are talking about Turkey as an asset rather than as a liability."

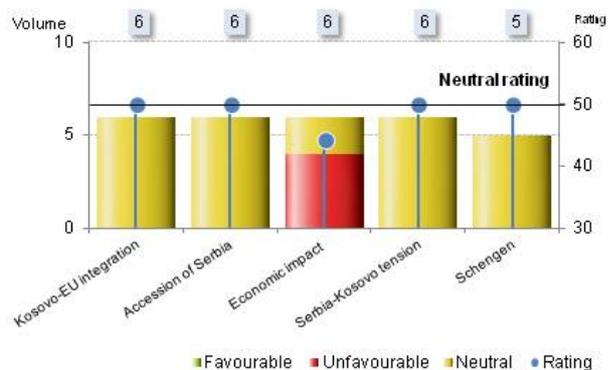
- The Times, UK, 28/2 (no link available)

Key Quotes

Utrinski Vesnik: European Enlargement Commissioner visits Skopje. According to the daily anonymous sources attending the negotiations, Füle's visit aimed at influencing the solution to the political situation in Macedonia (Focus News, Bulgaria, 1/3)
<http://www.focus-fen.net/?id=n300652>

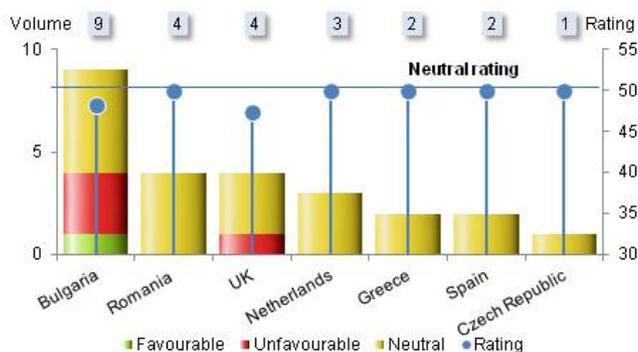
Charts

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by volume, favourability & rating



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ELARG: **Highlights**
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Volume	25 items
Rating	49.0
Favourable %	4%
Unfavourable %	16%
Neutral %	80%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	6
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	5
William Burns (Deputy Secretary of State, US)	4
Wilfried Scharnagl (member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, Germany)	4
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	3

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