



Key Quotes

EU has no option but to deal with strengthened Erdoğan: **"The EU will be forced to swallow its pride and pander to the hubristic ego of President Erdogan,"** said Natalie Martin, an expert on Turkish politics at Nottingham Trent University in Britain. **"In so doing, it will be dealing with a government which may be democratic but is certainly not liberal and which will demand a high price for its cooperation."** (yahoo!, UK, 2/11)

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/eu-no-option-deal-strengthened-erdogan-analysts-163434983.html#zK2Zelk>

Summary

Two big mistakes that ruined Europe

The first was the introduction of the euro; the second, the EU's enlargement to 28 members from 15 a couple of decades ago. Enlargement affected Europe in two ways. First, it forced the EU to take its eye off the ball at a critical time when it should have focused on building the institutions needed to make the euro work. Second, enlargement meant that EU countries that were not in the eurozone suddenly found themselves in the majority. That shift naturally shaped the EU's own agenda. Today, Brussels suddenly has to look after its own foreign policy interests and run the world's second-largest economy. The EU is not institutionally ready for either job. And its leaders are intellectually not ready either. We should expect to see more crises, more unilateral action by Member States, greater willingness to explore opt-outs, invocation of exceptional circumstances to suspend EU-level action, more rule breaking and the like. The real risk is not a formal break-up. That would be technically hard to do. But this is no consolation. The real danger is that the EU is simply going to wither away and turn into a ghost (ft.com, UK, 2/11)

- ft.com, UK, 2/11, [no link available]

Iceland's Prime Minister breathes a sigh of relief that his country never joined the European Union.

"I am pretty sure our recovery couldn't have happened if we had been part of the EU," Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson said in an interview last week. Gunnlaugsson argues that if his country's application had succeeded, then Iceland might have suffered the fate of Greece or Ireland. Instead, Iceland suspended its EU bid in 2013, and Gunnlaugsson finally withdrew the country's application earlier this year. "Our relationship with the EU, the model we have with Norway and Liechtenstein, through the EEA agreement, has worked for us," Gunnlaugsson said. And that's about as close to the EU as Iceland wants to get. "I think it is extremely unlikely — in fact impossible — that Iceland will join any time soon," the Prime Minister said (politico.eu, BE, 2/11).

- politico.eu, BE, 2/11, <http://www.politico.eu/article/iceland-pm-eu-bullet-membership-assession/>

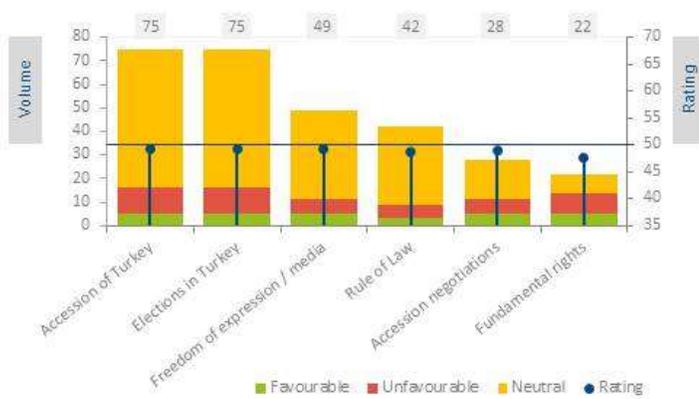
Elections in Turkey

EU representatives were pleased with the course of the parliamentary elections in Turkey. "The high voter turnout showed that the Turkish people support the democratic process" Foreign Policy chief Federica Mogherini and Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn said in Brussels. "The EU will work together with the future government in order to further enhance the EU-Turkey partnership and to continue to advance our cooperation across all areas for the benefit of all citizens" commented Johannes Hahn and Federica Mogherini (salzburg.com, AT, 2/11).

- Salzburger Nachrichten, AT, 2/11, <http://www.salzburg.com/nachrichten/welt/politik/sn/artikel/sieg-fuer-erdogan-akp-kann-in-tuerkei-wieder-allein-regieren-1-171679/>

Charts

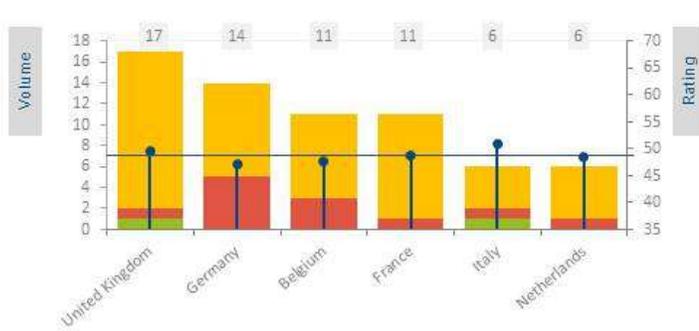
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Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC	14
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	9
Emma Sinclair-Webb - Human Rights Watch	8
Catherine Ray - EC Spokesperson)	4
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	4

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