

Key Quotes

"We are confident that Turkey will overcome this difficult moment, proving itself to be a mature democracy," said Italy's Foreign Minister Emma Bonino on Tuesday. "Italy continues to firmly believe in Turkey's European prospects," she added, referring to Turkey's stalled bid to join the European Union (eubusiness.com, UK, 5/6)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/turkey-politics.ovr>

"We are not perfect," said President of Croatia, Ivo Josipović, "but we are ready for the EU" (Die Presse, Austria, 4/6)

http://diepresse.com/home/politik/eu/1414708/KroatienBeitritt_Wir-sind-nicht-perfekt-aber-bereit?_vl_backlink=/home/politik/eu/index.do

Summary

EU wrong-footed while opening the door to Turkey

Just two weeks ago, Herman Van Rompuy visited Ankara and stressed his optimism about Turkey's possible EU membership. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was also due to visit Brussels by the end of the summer to discuss the matter. However, following the recent events in Ankara, all negotiations have been broken off. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, condemned the "disproportionate" use of force by Turkey's security forces, and said she hoped for a peaceful solution (La Stampa, IT, 4/6). Dagens Nyheter (SE, 4/6) suggests that Erdoğan has become increasingly authoritarian and his party AKP ignores all criticism. The paper says that AKP's 10 years in power have been full of paradoxes, with democratic reforms but also backward steps on freedom of speech. The EU has previously been an important driver for democracy in Turkey, but popular support for membership has collapsed. With its economic boom, Turkey is also increasingly seeing itself as a regional power that does not need to bother with Brussels. But, the paper says, the EU must not give up. The Financial Times (UK, 4/6) suggests that Mr Erdoğan has a problem with pluralism and that this is a shame because his achievements - in modernising Turkey's economy, taming the army and pioneering a politics of Muslim Democracy, starting accession negotiations with the EU and now, in starting a peace process with Turkey's Kurds - are extraordinary.

- La Stampa, IT, 4/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130604/mi/item_158665758.pdf
- Dagens Nyheter, SE, 4/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130604/mi/item_158658097.pdf
- Financial Times, UK, 4/6, (link not available)

Croatia facing important challenges reviving growth

A European Commission paper, issued last week, suggests Croatia may have to go straight into an EU disciplinary procedure when it joins the bloc and face an even tougher haul than its ex-Communist peers in adapting to free market pressures. Croatia, accepted for entry after six years of talks, will follow in the footsteps of 10 other ex-communist states. Of these, Czechs and Slovaks privatised major state-run banks and companies before they joined and sold off more after entry. "Croatia faces important challenges in terms of reviving growth, strengthening public finances and promoting competitiveness," the Commission wrote. "Continued high government deficits are contributing to a rapid build-up of public debt," it said, mentioning the drag on finances from loss-making state enterprises (uk.reuters.com, UK, 3/6). Many Croats are suffering serious economic difficulties but "despite the current crisis, united Europe is still an area of prosperity and peace, and it remains a desirable society for all small countries like Croatia" says the historian Tvrško Jakovina (news.fr.msn.com, FR, 3/6).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 3/6, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/03/uk-eu-croatia-idUKBRE9520PT20130603?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>
- news.fr.msn.com, FR, 3/6, <http://news.fr.msn.com/m6-actualite/croatie-des-difficult%C3%A9s-%C3%A9conomiques-g%C3%A2chent-la-f%C3%A2te-de-ladh%C3%A9sion-%C3%A0-lue>

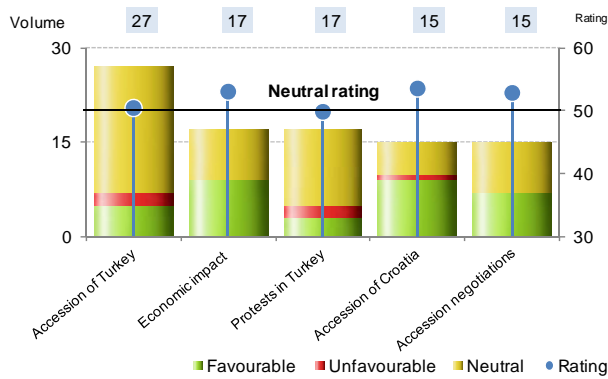
Recognition of Kosovo

The question of recognition of Kosovo's independence was raised by Romanian Prime Minister, Victor Ponta, who noted that five States, including Romania, do not recognise Kosovo but went on to say "There is a wide range of views, from that of never recognising the independence of Kosovo in any context, to the idea, towards which I personally am leaning more and more, of Romania taking a position that is coordinated with its European and trans-Atlantic partners and accept the situation" (Evenimentul-Zile, RO, 4/6)

- Evenimentul-Zile, RO, 4/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130604/mi/item_158661081.pdf

Charts

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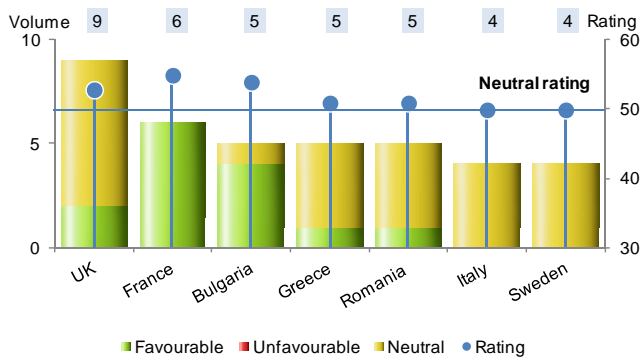
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	13
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Stipe Mesić (Former President, Croatia)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	4
Victor Ponta (Prime Minister, Romania)	4
Ioannis Kasoulides (Foreign Minister, Cyprus)	3

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