

Key Quotes

European Union Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle expressed concern about developments in Turkey, whose negotiations to join the bloc have sputtered partly over worries about its record on human rights and freedom of speech. **"Turkey needs de-escalation and dialogue, not continuation of excessive use of force against peaceful protesters. We watch with concerns,"** he tweeted (Herald Scotland, UK, 18/6) <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/protesters-faced-by-riot-police-at-march.21363931>

Serbia, Kosovo exchange liaison officers. The EU's top diplomat, Catherine Ashton, has welcomed the move. **"This is another concrete achievement in the context of implementation and an important step towards normalisation of relations,"** Ashton said in Brussels (Rferl.org, CZ, 17/6) <http://www.rferl.org/content/serbia-kosovo-diplomatic-relations/25019768.html>

Summary

Germany calls for delay in opening new chapter in Turkey's already stalled EU accession talks

On the international stage the past two weeks have damaged Turkey's reputation, crucially in Europe, where a group of countries led by Germany have put further brakes on the glacial EU accession talks because of the violence used against protesters (Observer, UK, 16/6). However, on Friday Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan adopted a more conciliatory tone. In talks with protest organisers he promised to let a legal challenge proceed through the courts before carrying out plans to redevelop the park, one of the last green spaces in Istanbul (Sunday Times, UK, 16/6). Nevertheless, in the face of Germany seeking to delay scheduled EU membership talks with Ankara Erdoğan said *"It is not up to Germany to criticise us on Gezi Park,"* calling on Berlin to instead do more about neo-Nazi murders of ethnic Turks in the country. Meanwhile, a more conciliatory tone has emerged from Berlin. A spokesman for the German foreign ministry repeated the government's insistence that it is not seeking to delay opening a new chapter in Turkey's EU accession negotiations for political reasons but merely because there are a number of unspecified *"technical questions"* to be resolved. *"There is naturally no direct connection between the domestic events in Turkey ... and the technical process of opening an accession chapter,"* he said (Financial Times Europe, UK, 15/6).

- Observer, UK, 16/6, (link not available)
- Sunday Times, UK, 16/6, (link not available)
- Financial Times Europe, UK, 15/6 (link not available)

Academics comment on Turkey

Professor Christian Berggren writing in Svenska Dagbladet (SE, 16/6) suggests that the EU should make it clear that accession negotiations will be resumed if Turkey turns away from its authoritarian path and towards dialogue, sets journalists free as well as guaranteeing an independent judiciary. In the meantime, Berggren says Carl Bildt, the Swedish Foreign Minister, should make use of Sweden's special influence on Turkey and demand dialogue instead of confrontation. Meanwhile British Historian, Timothy Garton Ash, is calling on the European Union to continue the accession negotiations with Turkey (direktbroker.de, DE, 16/6).

- Svenska Dagbladet, SE, 16/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130616/mi/item_159918634.pdf
- direktbroker.de, DE, 16/6, <http://www.direktbroker.de/news-kurse/details/Politik/Der+Taesspiegel:+Garton+Ash:/28888932>

Mutual recognition by Serbia and Kosovo

The Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo, Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaçi, on Sunday in Göttweih (Austria) staged their mutual recognition and will to cooperate in a move aimed at closing the chapter of the Balkans war forever as they opened a new one – that of European integration. This would be the last change in Europe's borders as all sides involved agree that the case of *"miserable Kosovo"* cannot be compared with that of *"rich Catalonia"* (ABC, ES, 17/6). Serbian EU Minister, Suzana Grubješić commented that the *"Distant prospect of EU membership contributes more than anything else to reforms in Serbia"* (Focus, DE, 17/6).

- ABC, ES, 17/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130617/mi/item_159929636.pdf
- Focus, DE, 17/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130617/mi/item_159911648.pdf

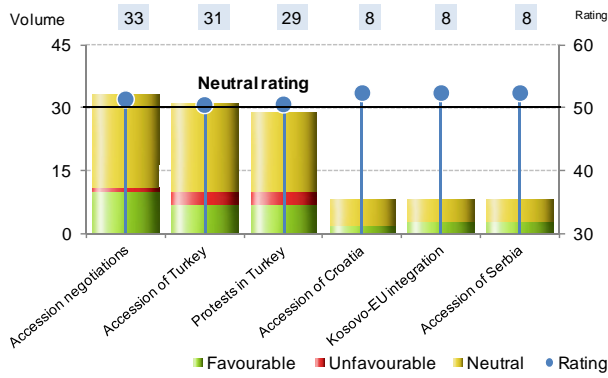
Iceland no longer interested in EU membership

This was stated by Bragi Sveinsson, the new Icelandic Foreign Minister during his visit to the EC. This is how democracy works, said the minister during his meeting with European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle. The minister stressed, however, that Iceland was a part of Europe and wished to strengthen its relationship with the EU in other ways (Vecer, SI, 15/6).

- Vecer, SI, 15/6, http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130615/mi/item_159927814.pdf

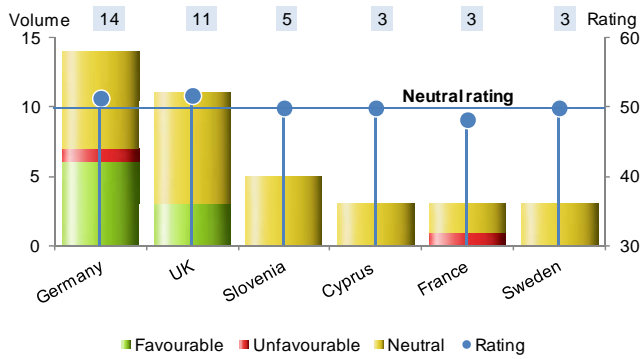
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	25
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	9
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	8
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Timothy Garton Ash (British historian)	4

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