

## Key Quotes

Albania's two main political parties have both claimed victory in elections seen as a crucial test of the country's progress towards joining the EU. The EU, which has twice rejected Tirana's membership application, said Sunday's election **"represents a crucial test for the country's democratic institutions and its progress towards the European Union"** (BBC Online, UK, 24/6)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23018090>

EU risks upsetting Turkey with threat to call off talks. Marietje Schaake, a Dutch liberal member of the European Parliament, said it would be unwise for the EU to slam the door on Turkey. **"This situation creates ... a chance for the EU to step up efforts to improve the rule of law in Turkey, such as the independence of the judiciary and respect for the fundamental rights of all people in Turkey"** (uk.reuters.com, UK, 23/6)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/23/uk-turkey-protests-eu-idUKBRE95M08420130623>

## Summary

### Germany blocks negotiations on accession process of Turkey to EU

At a meeting of ambassadors in Brussels Germany said it could not support the start of negotiations set for this month - talks long scheduled to breathe life back into Ankara's EU bid. The Netherlands also expressed reservations about the talks (Financial Times, UK, 21/6). According to an EU diplomat, a number of questions remained to be discussed concerning Turkey's accession negotiations and therefore it is unlikely that the Irish Council Presidency can open the new chapter as planned. Turkey's Minister of European Affairs Egemen Bağış said it was not Turkey that needed the EU – but the other way around (Der Tagesspiegel, DE, 21/6). In an opinion piece for the Financial Times (UK, 21/6) David Gardner writes that the EU has to tread a fine line: addressing Mr Erdoğan's paranoid and intolerant behaviour; but somehow engaging with this civic blossoming of urban Turkey, with its diverse vitality that is democratic and, well, European. But for all its vaunted claims to act as one in European and world affairs, the EU seems culturally incapable of dealing with Turkey. Mr Erdoğan and the AKP's signal success in building a larger, more prosperous middle class has opened the way to greater democratic activism with which they seem unable so far to cope. They keep repeating they won 50 per cent of the vote, as though entitled to ignore the 50 per cent who did not vote for them. Marc Pierini, EU ambassador to Turkey until 2011 says the latter **"are the 50 per cent who understood what EU values are about and want to apply them in Turkey"** Heather Grabbe, formerly a senior EU official dealing with enlargement, in a Centre for European Reform paper urges the EU to **"hug Turkey closer at this great moment in Turkey's democratic journey"**.

- Financial Times, UK, 21/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item\\_160398671.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item_160398671.pdf)
- Der Tagesspiegel, DE, 21/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item\\_160387900.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item_160387900.pdf)
- Financial Times, UK, 21/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item\\_160398686.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item_160398686.pdf)

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia must solve bilateral issues

Naftemporiki (GR, 21/6) reports that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's efforts to get a date for the beginning of accession negotiations have been unsuccessful. According to sources, it is expected that the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs will not make any decision for the beginning of the accession negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia during their meeting on 25 June. Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle commented on the need for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to solve the bilateral issues with Greece and Bulgaria. Mr Füle stated that the good neighbourhood relations are an important part of the criteria and finding solutions to the bilateral problems is one of the priorities. Mr Füle added that the enlargement process must not introduce bilateral problems into the EU and that is why every possible effort is put into solving them before the beginning of the process.

- Naftemporiki, GR, 21/6, [http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item\\_160409269.pdf](http://194.250.231.110/delivery/20130621/mi/item_160409269.pdf)

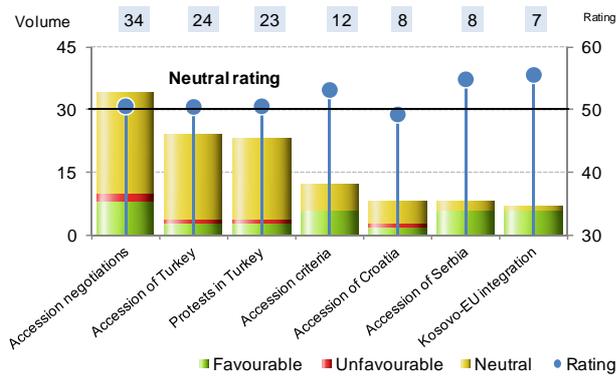
### Albanians go to the polls

**"It is the joint responsibility of all Albanian political leaders... to create conditions for election results to be accepted by all,"** EU Foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said in a joint statement ahead of the vote. Brussels would **"watch everything very closely"** Ettore Sequi, head of the EU mission in Tirana, told AFP (eubusiness.com, UK, 21/6).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 21/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/albania-politics.pbb/>

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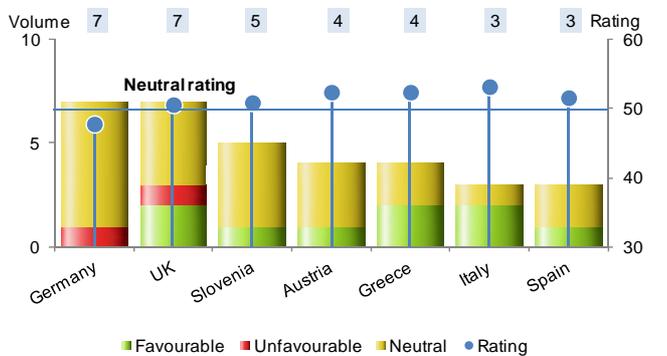
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| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources  | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)  | 17                 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)  | 14                 |
| Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)   | 14                 |
| Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU) | 9                  |
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)   | 7                  |
| Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)  | 6                  |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)   | 6                  |

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