

## Key Quotes

On Sunday, the Albanian parliament approved the government of Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama. **"The process of adhesion to the EU is a national goal that requires a democratisation and transformation of Albanian society in compliance with European values and principles,"** Rama said (Real.gr, 16/9)

<http://www.real.gr/DefaultArthro.aspx?page=arthro&id=261163&catID=14>

## Summary

### Iceland halts negotiations on EU membership

On Thursday the Icelandic Foreign Minister Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson said the island had suspended European Union accession talks indefinitely, following an election promise made earlier this year. *"We have dissolved our task force and negotiation teams, and there won't be any other summit"* Sveinsson told parliament (eubusiness.com, UK, 12/9). *"The government is in agreement on this subject. The process has been suspended. But nothing has been closed down, and we will improve our communication and strengthen our ties with the EU without actually joining,"* Sveinsson said (ant1iwo.com, CY, 12/9). A Euro-sceptic centre-right coalition won legislative elections in April, running on a program that included an end to accession talks. Public opinion on the island has been against membership of the EU, with fisheries posing a big obstacle. Reykjavik and Brussels have tried, but so far failed, to resolve a dispute over mackerel, with the EU threatening trade sanctions if Iceland does not reduce its quota (uk.advfn.com, UK, 12/9). *"The EU has decided that no further pre-accession funds would be made available"* Sveinsson said (Phileleftheros, CY, 13/9).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 12/9, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/iceland-membership.qh1/>
- ant1iwo.com, CY, 12/9, <http://www.ant1iwo.com/kosmos/2013/09/12/diakophke-h-diadikasia-entajhs-ths-islam/>
- uk.advfn.com, UK, 12/9, <http://uk.advfn.com/news/DJN/2013/article/59189843>
- Phileleftheros, CY, 13/9, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130913/mi/item\\_168916275.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130913/mi/item_168916275.pdf)

### Turkey's economic prospects

Turkey is targeting a major increase in fisheries production over the next decade, part of government plans to promote economic and social development in coastal and inland areas, by supporting growth of freshwater and marine aquaculture fisheries, to create employment and raise family incomes in less developed coastal and inland rural regions. As part of its Vision 2023 targets, the government is aiming for Turkey to be the largest fisheries producer in the European Union, of which Turkey intends to become a member by the next decade (worldfishing.net, UK, 12/9). A 0.6% average year-on-year real growth in Turkish economy far outstrips any developed market in the region, making Turkey an attractive investment destination. Turkey's strategic geographical position is paying off; situated in-between one of the world's largest gas deposits, and one of the world's biggest gas markets, the European Union, Turkey has become a crucial part of the international energy infrastructure. In June 2012, the agreement for the Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) was finally signed between Turkey and Azerbaijan for the construction of the pipeline, which stretches for over 300km (creditman.biz, 12/9). Widely reported in Germany were the comments of the Foreign Minister, Guido Westerwelle, who stressed the importance of Turkey being in the European Union and the need for accession negotiations with Turkey a few days before the elections. *"There may come a situation in which Europe has more interest in Turkey than Turkey in Europe"*, Westerwelle said (finanzen.net, DE, 12/9).

- worldfishing.net, UK, 12/9, <http://www.worldfishing.net/news101/regional-focus/turkey-targets-growth>
- creditman.biz, 12/9, <http://www.creditman.biz/uk/members/news-view.asp?newsviewID=18663>
- finanzen.net, DE, 12/9, <http://www.finanzen.net/nachricht/aktien/Neue-Westfaelische-Bielefeld-Westerwelle-macht-sich-fuer-Tuerkei-stark-2653131>

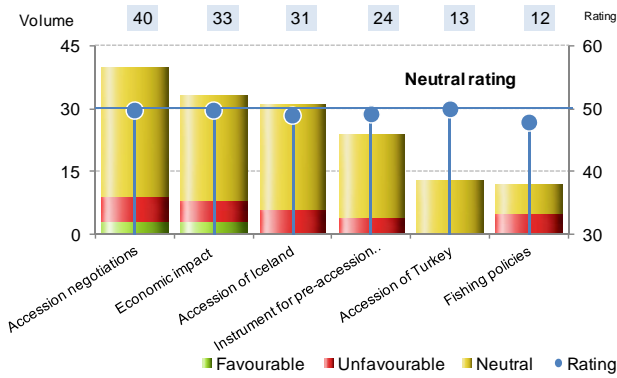
### Democracy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, faces a stern test, in whichever direction the young state looks, it has problems with neighbours, especially Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia. Partly for this reason, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a somewhat immature and insecure democracy, not a confident and recognisably law based state. It is economically underdeveloped, and sorely in need of jobs and foreign investment and it would be naive to think that easy solutions to these problems are within reach (ft.com, UK, 13/9).

- ft.com, UK, 13/9, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/5d4d383a-13bd-11e3-9289-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2eeRT7ZGG>

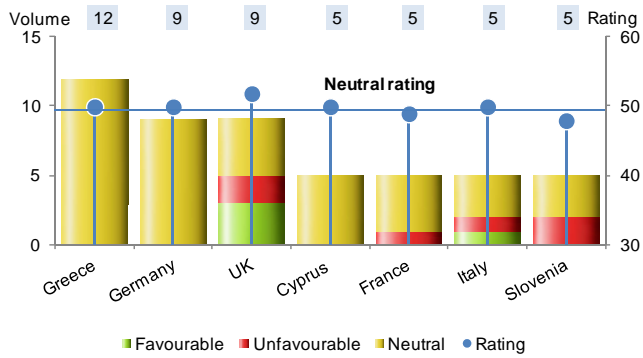
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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson (Foreign Minister, Iceland)	31
Guido Westerwelle (Foreign Minister, Germany)	9
Nikola Gruevski (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	4
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	2

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