

Key Quotes

No free movement for Turks. The Istanbul daily *Zaman* reports on the disappointment that greeted the verdict in Turkey. The Minister for EU affairs, Egemen Bağış, said that **"the verdict had been influenced by non-legal and political considerations"**. The Swiss daily, *Le Temps*, continues that **"Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has taken a personal interest in the case as he has done in the question of his country's accession to the EU. He finds it incomprehensible, and even discriminatory, that the EU should grant visa exemptions to South Americans, while Turks, who are economically and geographically closer, are denied free movement"** (Collectif Van, FR, 26/9) <http://www.collectifvan.org/article.php?r=4&id=75798>

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia fails to amend constitution against gay marriage. **"The country is clearly not ready for EU membership. Assurances of action against homophobia have come to nothing. Brussels should make it clear to the Macedonian government that it will be blocked from joining until it takes serious action to tackle homophobic attitudes and violence and until it provides full legal protection to LGBT citizens"**, said gay rights activist Peter Tatchell (huffingtonpost.co.uk, UK, 25/9). http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dan-littauer/macedonias-gay-marriage_b_3987258.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-politics&ir=UK+Politics

Summary

Help for innovative and research orientated SMEs in Turkey

The European Investment Bank Group is partnering with Türkiye Halk Bankası A.Ş. (Halkbank) and providing a 100 million euros facility to support innovative and research oriented, small and medium sized companies and mid-caps in Turkey, with the financial support of the European Union. Some 180 to 200 innovative companies are expected to benefit from the EIB Group facility. This joint EU effort is supported by the Seventh Framework Programme, with which Turkey is associated. The two members of the EIB Group; the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF); engineered this operation using a guarantee facility co-developed with the European Commission. This innovative partnership is being used for the first time in Turkey. The operation is structured as an EIB loan to Halkbank. It is enhanced by an EIF guarantee providing credit risk coverage to Halkbank under the Risk-Sharing Instrument (RSI). This joint effort is expected to improve the lending conditions offered by Halkbank to the innovative companies (ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 24/9).

- ansamed.ansa.it, IT, 24/9, http://ansamed.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/economia/2013/09/24/Turchia-Bei-100-mln-sostegno-Pmi-innovative_9354502.html

Turkish citizens must obtain visa for entry into the EU

The ECJ has ruled that the national visa requirements for Turkish citizens entering an EU Member State take precedence over the EU's economic cooperation agreement with Turkey. Although the association agreement with Turkey foresees the elimination of restrictions on the freedom of services, it is not sufficient for Turks to cite the Common Market as their reason for being allowed to enter the EU (Presse-Austria, AT, 25/9). Linkspartei member of the Bundestag Sevim Dağdelen accused the judges of giving in on the governments' pressure. After being denied a visa, Leyla Ecem Demirkan complained that an amendment to the 1973 association agreement prohibits visa requirement if local services are utilised. The judges decided, however, that the amendment is no basis for freedom of travel. The visa requirement is one of the biggest problems in the EU's relation to Turkey (Tagesspiegel, DE, 25/9). The Turkish government claims to suffer from a discriminatory treatment by the European Union when it comes to entry requirements (ZDF, DE, 24/9).

- Presse-Austria, AT, 25/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130925/mi/item_170289708.pdf
- Tagesspiegel, DE, 25/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130925/mi/item_170273681.pdf
- ZDF, DE, 24/9, <http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130924/mi/2501-493986-001.mp4>

New chapter in Albania's relations with Greece

Greece could accelerate Albania's journey towards the EU, the Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said that the government led by him considers Greece as a friendly country, stressing that the foreign policy of his government is based on the principle of **"zero problems with the neighbours"** (capital.gr, EL, 24/9).

- capital.gr, EL, 24/9, <http://www.capital.gr/News.asp?id=1876518>

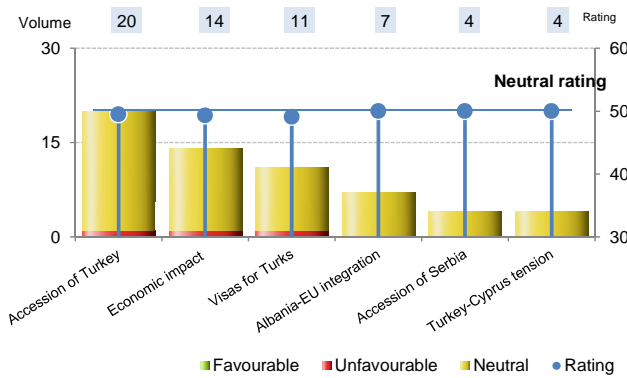
New IMF loan programme for Serbia

Serbia will consider a new loan programme with the IMF after adopting the 2014 budget and concluding a technical mission by the lender in early October, Finance Minister Lazar Krstić said on Tuesday. With public debt already projected to hit 65 percent of national output this year on a budget deficit of 5 percent of gross domestic product, some analysts had expected the former Yugoslav republic would seek and get support this year. Serbia lost its last International Monetary Fund safety net in early 2012 as the deficit and debt soared and is still struggling economically while making progress toward talks on European Union membership next year (uk.reuters.com, UK, 24/9).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 24/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/24/us-eeurope-investment-serbia-finmin-idUKBRE98NOGK20130924>

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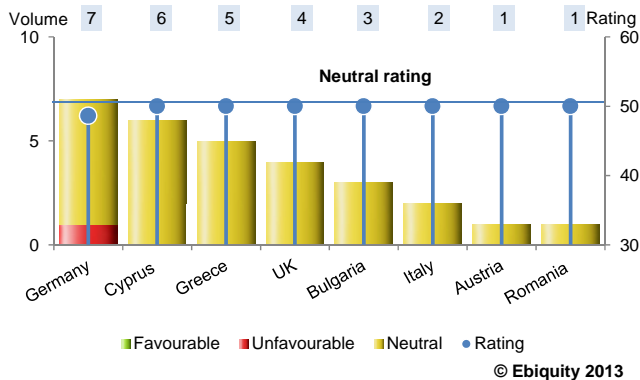
ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	6
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	3
Ban Ki-moon (Secretary-General, UN)	3
Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece)	3
Nikos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	3
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	2
Dervis Eroğlu (Turkish Cypriot leader)	2
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	2

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