



Key Quotes

Turkey unveils political reforms package. The European Union welcomed the reforms announced on Monday. The reforms held a "**prospect for progress on many important issues**" said Peter Stano, a spokesman for the EU's enlargement commissioner, Štefan Füle. "**We will closely follow up the implementation, of course, and the translation of the proposals into real life, into legislation and into practical actions**" he added (dw.de, 30/9).

<http://www.dw.de/turkish-pm-unveils-reforms-to-increase-rights-of-kurdish-minority/a-17128423>

Summary

Belgrade Gay Pride cancelled - bad signal for EU membership

Contrary to earlier reports that Pride in Belgrade looked likely to go ahead, the government in Serbia decided instead to ban it, citing the threat of violence. The event has been banned by the government for the past two years because of violence from right wing extremists in 2010. But it was thought that they would allow it to go ahead this year, following pressure from the West. The country is expected to begin accession talks to join the European Union soon, and human rights would form part of the decision-making process. Brian Sheehan, member of the Executive Board of LGBTI lobbying group ILGA-Europe and in Belgrade for the Pride, condemned the ban, saying "*if Serbian authorities are serious about EU integration, they have to stop giving into threats by hooligans and show in practice that they are committed to ensuring fundamental democratic freedoms*" (sosogay.co.uk, 29/9). The Serbian Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić said "*Security assessments show that there was a chance of serious violation of public order and peace, and citizens' security and safety are a higher cause than rights and freedoms*" (ideal.es, 27/9). The Netherlands said it was disappointed that the Serbian authorities had banned the Pride Parade and said that the Netherlands will call attention to these issues in the context of the EU progress report on Serbia (nd.nl, 28/9).

- sosogay.co.uk, UK, 29/9, http://sosogay.co.uk/2013/serbian-pride-banned-third-year-row/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=serbian-pride-banned-third-year-row
- ideal.es, 27/9, [link not available]
- nd.nl, 28/9, <http://www.nd.nl/artikelen/2013/september/28/kabinet-servie-niet-snel-in-eu-na-verbod-gay-pride>

Fundamental Rights and Freedom of Expression

Gay Pride parades are today's freedom tests in Europe, writes Minister for EU Affairs Birgitta Ohlsson of the Liberal People's Party in an op-ed in Expressen (SE, 29/9). Serbia chose to fail that test once again by cancelling their Pride parade, and that stains the image of a country which has aspirations to take big steps towards the core of the EU. Sweden is one of the driving forces for LGBTI issues within the EU, and the EU is at its strongest when it shows a united front against homophobia. Sweden strongly supports the EU enlargement, but with support come demands. Getting to choose your own love and identity are among the most basic human rights.

Census in BiH

Resembling an election more than a census, Serb, Croat and Muslim political and religious leaders are urging their constituents and congregations to declare their ethnicity and faith as a matter of national duty. They each fear being weakened in the system of ethnic quotas set down under the 1995 accord, a Byzantine form of government that stopped the war but stifled development. Bosnia trails its ex-Yugoslav peers in the quest to join the European Union. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled the constitution discriminatory, but leaders have failed to agree on how to amend it, blocking Bosnia's application to join the EU (uk.reuters.com, 27/9).

- uk.reuters.com, 27/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/27/us-bosnia-census-idUKBRE98Q0DT20130927>

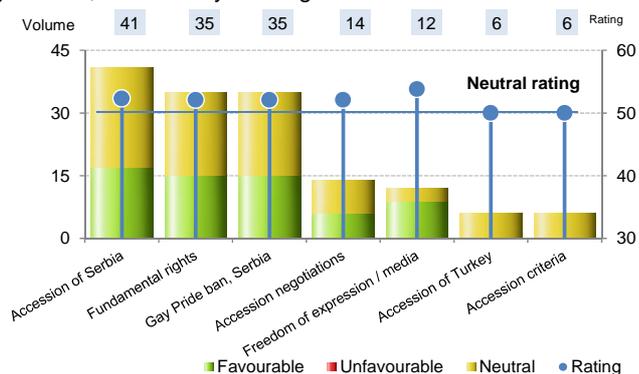
Turkey should liberate itself from EU goal

The EU accession negotiations with Turkey have been blocked for years due to Ankara not acknowledging the Republic of Cyprus. Turkish president Abdullah Gül has argued in favour of continuing to align the country's laws to EU law. However, resistance in government circles is growing. An accession is deemed unrealistic by experts (Presse-Austria, 29/9).

- Presse-Austria, 29/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130928/mi/item_170866059.pdf

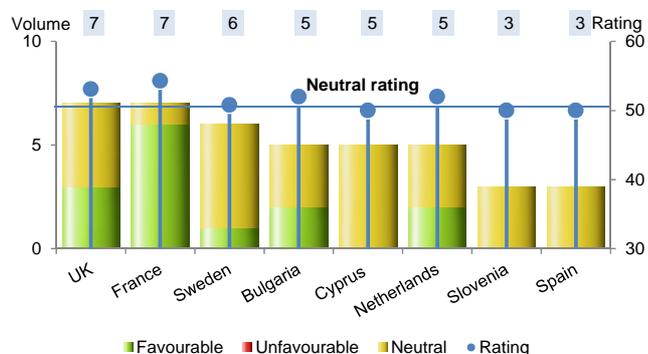
Charts

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| Neutral % | 66% |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 19 |
| Birgitta Ohlsson (European Affairs Minister, Sweden) | 16 |
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC) | 15 |
| Marije Cornelissen (MEP) | 6 |
| Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey) | 2 |
| Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus) | 2 |
| Frans Timmermans (Foreign Minister, Netherlands) | 2 |
| Jelko Kacin (MEP) | 2 |
| Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey) | 2 |

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