

Key Quotes

Bulgaria's issues regarding the influx of Syrian refugees, EU's enlargement towards the Western Balkans and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's EU accession bid will be the main items on the agenda at the visit of Bulgarian Foreign minister Kristian Vigenin to Brussels.

Novinite writes that **"Bulgaria's Foreign Minister will insist on good-neighbour agreement with Macedonia – a necessary condition for Bulgaria to concur with the start of the negotiations on Macedonia's accession to the EU"** (Novinite, BG, 1/10).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/154126/Bulgarian+Foreign+Min+to+Discuss+Refugee+Aid%2C+EU+Enlargement+in+Brussels>

Summary

Erdoğan introduces democracy package

On Monday, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced key political reforms, including lifting a ban on Islamic headscarves and strengthening Kurdish rights. The move comes as critics accuse Erdoğan of Islamising the staunchly secular country and as minority Kurds pursuing a difficult peace process with Ankara still demand more rights. Erdoğan announced further reforms, saying that his government would establish a language and cultural institute for Roma people. Héléne Flautre of the European Greens, who support Turkey's entry into the European Union, said the measures *"go in the direction of reinforcing the democratic base and fundamental rights"* (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 30/9). The reforms are seen as designed to salvage a peace process with Kurdish insurgents, including changes to the electoral system, broadening of language rights and permission for villages to use their original Kurdish names (uk.reuters.com, 30/9). In Brussels, a spokesman for EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said Ankara's reforms package held the *"prospect for progress on many important issues"*. Peter Stano said the European Council will *"closely follow up the implementation of course and the translation of the proposals into real life, into legislation, and into practical actions"* (rferl.org, CZ, 30/9). The measures will be the main issue on the agenda of Wednesday's meeting between Štefan Füle and Turkish European Affairs minister Egemen Bağış (Phileleftheros, CY, 1/10).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 30/9, <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-lifts-ban-headscarves-public-institutions-133418333.html#3fEGTAB>
- uk.reuters.com, 30/9, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/30/uk-turkey-politics-reforms-idUKBRE98T0HP20130930?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>
- rferl.org, CZ, 30/9, <http://www.rferl.org/content/turkey-rights-reforms-kurds/25122004.html>
- Phileleftheros, CY, 1/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131001/mi/item_170995784.pdf

Annual report on former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The European Commission has completed the annual report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and other EU applicant member states. EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle's spokesperson Peter Stano said that the report will contain the different standpoints on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece on the name issue. *"The EU Commission report is an assessment of the progress in all fields which are important for the EU accession of the country"*, Peter Stano said (focus-fen.net, BG, 1/10). In response to a journalist's question on the name issue dispute, Greek Foreign Minister Evangelios Venizelos said Greece will never yield and will not give an inch. *"We expect our neighbours to act in accordance to the good neighbourly relations and international law, the main requirements for European integration"* Evangelios Venizelos stated (focus-fen.net, BG, 1/10).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 1/10, [link not available]
- focus-fen.net, BG, 1/10, [link not available]

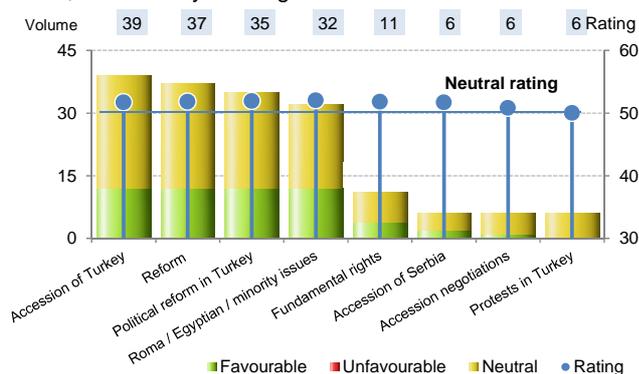
Who's afraid of homosexuals?

Director of the European Centre for Dispute Resolution, Aleš Zalar, writes in Delo (SI, 1/10) that in the autumn of 2011, he participated in the Brdo Process conference, where the then Serbian Interior Minister Ivica Dačić said to him, in the context of the prohibited Pride Parade in Serbia, that he need not turn gay in order to prove his pro-European orientation. Mr. Zalar argues that this is a typical statement that reinforces stereotypes and prejudices. Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić said preparations for Belgrade Pride in 2014 should begin immediately after his country's national security Bureau banned the event for the third year in a row. *"We should begin preparations for next year's parade today"* President Nikolić said on Monday, adding that all Serbians had a constitutional right to assemble and to hold political demonstrations (gaystarnews.com, UK, 1/10).

- Delo, SI, 1/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131001/mi/item_170993792.pdf
- gaystarnews.com, UK, 1/10, <http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/serbian-president-says-start-planning-2014-belgrade-pride-now011013>

Charts

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by volume, favourability & rating



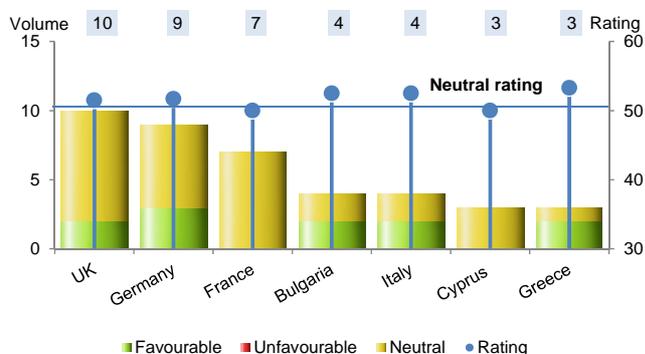
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Volume	49 items
Rating	51.7
Favourable %	32.6%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	67.4%

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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	36
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	13
Peter Stano (Spokesperson Enlargement, EC)	9
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Hélène Flautre (MEP)	4
Egemen Bağış (Minister for European Affairs, Turkey)	3

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