

## Key Quotes

Turkey questions its EU future as Brussels looks to Balkans. A senior official with direct knowledge of enlargement discussions said EU leaders were not focused on Turkey which would be the most populous member, giving it the largest share of seats in the European Parliament and influence across Europe's institutions. **"There is a real openness to enlargement to the Balkans and further east (in eastern Europe)"** the official said, pointing out that **"six or seven"** countries in the region could ultimately become members, boosting the EU's total to 34 or 35 states. **"The Western Balkans are very close to Europe. But Turkey is qualitatively different for all sorts of reasons. It's an issue of geography, the fact that it is a Muslim country, the fact that public opinion in some member states is very strongly against it becoming a member"** (Reuters, UK, 3/10).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/03/uk-eu-turkey-insight-idUKBRE99203R20131003>

## Summary

### Bosnia, the census that reopens the wounds of war

Bosnia launched its first census as an independent state on Tuesday, a politically charged event that has revived ethnic rifts and could shake the delicate power-sharing system that helped end the country's 1992-95 war. The results, due in mid-January, will provide data vital for efficient economic planning and for Bosnia's ambition to join the European Union. But the event has been marred by aggressive campaigning by Bosnia's former warring sides - Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) - who each fear being weakened in the system of ethnic quotas set by the 1995 Dayton peace accord (uk.reuters.com, 1/10). The census remains controversial because it contains questions on ethnicity, language and religion. These were pushed for by Serbian nationalists and hotly contested by Bosnian Muslims, who said the census might turn into a legalisation of the ethnic cleansing perpetrated against them during the 1992-1995 war (ansamed.info, IT, 1/10). Those refusing to provide details can identify themselves as "Bosnian" or "Bosnia-Herzegovian". Census-taking will last until October 15 and early results will be published 90 days later (presseurop.eu, FR, 1/10).

- uk.reuters.com, 1/10, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/01/us-bosnia-census-idUKBRE9900RD20131001>
- ansamed.info, IT, 1/10, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/bosniaherzegovina/2013/10/01/Bosnia-first-population-census-1992-1995-war-underway\\_9390077.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/bosniaherzegovina/2013/10/01/Bosnia-first-population-census-1992-1995-war-underway_9390077.html)
- presseurop.eu, FR, 1/10, <http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/news-brief/4190601-census-takers-will-come-knocking>

### Bosnia-Herzegovina: New meeting with Füle

A new meeting has taken place with EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, part of the high level dialogue designed to overcome the divisions in the country that inhibit the implementation of necessary reforms (athina984.gr, EL, 1/10). Bosnian leaders have moved to clear the main obstacle to their country applying to join the European Union on Tuesday by agreeing to end a constitutional ban on minorities running for high office (ad-hoc-news.de, DE, 2/10) and agreeing to implement the judgment of the Court of Human Rights (eldiario.es, 1/10).

- athina984.gr, EL, 1/10, [link not available]
- ad-hoc-news.de, DE, 2/10, <http://www.ad-hoc-news.de/by-adrian-croft-brussels-reuters-bosnian-leaders--/de/News/32151145>
- eldiario.es, 1/10, [http://www.eldiario.es/politica/Bosnia-implementar-Tribunal-Derechos-Humanos\\_0\\_181282580.html](http://www.eldiario.es/politica/Bosnia-implementar-Tribunal-Derechos-Humanos_0_181282580.html)

### Gül signals ambition for political power

Abdullah Gül, Turkey's president, has warned against the polarisation of Turkish society. He saluted the memory of people killed in this year's Gezi Park protests and insisted on the importance of a free media in a speech widely seen as a riposte to Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the prime minister. Opening parliament for the last time during his term of office, Mr Gül not only set out what resembled an alternative approach to the government but also suggested that he still had political ambitions of his own. Close to the end of his address he said that he would *"continue to be in the service of our nation"*. In a possible reference to criticism that the prime minister has become more authoritarian and has muzzled the media, Mr Gül said *"The separation of powers, a free press, and an effective opposition are also among the indispensable elements of democracy"*. The contrast between Mr Gül's conciliatory speech, which also highlighted the EU as the *"centre of gravity"* of Turkish foreign policy, and Mr Erdoğan's more combative style is particularly significant, since Turkey is headed for an uncertain transition of power ahead of the first direct presidential elections next year (Financial-Times, UK, 2/19).

- Financial-Times, UK, 2/19, [link not available]

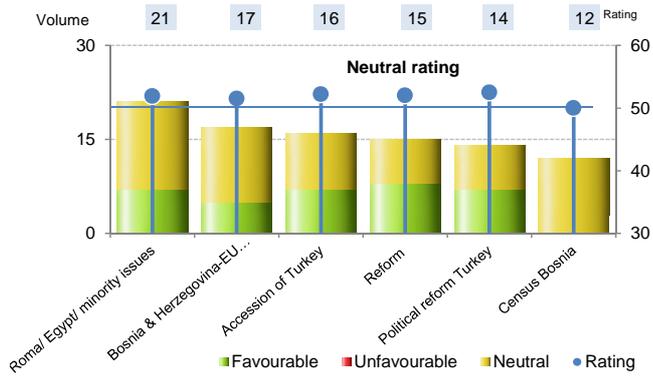
### Bağış heading for Brussels

Following the announcement of reforms the European Affairs Minister, Egemen Bağış is heading to the EU for a progress report and hopes for a fair wind (Standard, AT, 2/10).

Standard, AT, 2/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131002/mi/item\\_171126261.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20131002/mi/item_171126261.pdf)

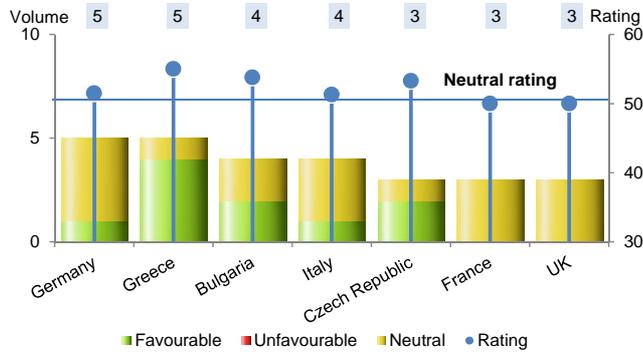
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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	36
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	13
Peter Stano (Spokesperson Enlargement, EC)	9

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