



Key Quotes

Turkey has removed 350 police officers from their posts in the capital Ankara, following a corruption probe targeting people close to the government. The European Union - which Turkey hopes to join - has urged Ankara to address the corruption allegations in an "*impartial manner*" (BBC Online, UK, 7/1).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25634542>

Summary

Serbia's EU timetable

Branko Ružić, minister without portfolio responsible for European integration, said that this would be the year of European integration for Serbia, and underlined that the goal is to open six negotiation chapters by the end of 2014. Speaking for the Daily News of the Radio Television of Serbia (RTS), Ružić said that the negotiating process with the EU must be addressed very meticulously and added that the negotiating framework with Serbia will be announced on the first intergovernmental conference of Serbia and the EU on 21 January. He pointed out that approximately 50 meetings with representatives of the Union will be held during the year, noting that Chapter 35 is the greatest unknown in the negotiating process. He observed that the EU has a uniform policy on enlargement, which is favourable to Serbia in terms of its position and goals and added that the fact that Greece and Italy will chair the EU this year is also favourable for Serbia, since these two countries are proven friends of Serbia's process of European integration (balkans.com, UK, 7/1). However early elections may block Serbian EU membership negotiation (magyarhirlap.hu, HU, 6/1).

- balkans.com, UK, 7/1, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=186865>
- magyarhirlap.hu, HU, 6/1, <http://www.magyarhirlap.hu/elore-hozott-valasztas-blokkolhatja-a-szerb-eu-tagsagi-tarqyalast>

Tension between Serbia and Kosovo

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić, said that in five years Serbia will be ready to join the EU, and that the main criterion would be the relations between Belgrade and Pristina (investor.bg, BG, 6/1). This was highlighted by a report which stated that hundreds of Kosovo Albanian demonstrators prevented a group of Serbs entering the Orthodox Church in Đakovica on Monday. Displaced Serbs who used to live in Đakovica until 1999 war came to their hometown from Serbia on the orthodox Christmas Eve, but police discouraged them from entering the church for security reasons. Albanian demonstrators chanted "UCK" (abbreviation for "Kosovo Liberation Army") and "Kosovo is ours", Radio Television of Serbia (RTS) learned. One of the two buses Serbs were being transported in was stoned. This was the first time since 1999 displaced Serbs have tried to attend Christmas Eve liturgy in Đakovica (balkaneu.com, EL, 7/1).

- investor.bg, BG, 6/1, <http://www.investor.bg/evropa/334/a/dachich-do-pet-godini-syrbiia-shte-e-gotova-da-stane-chlen-na-es.164440/>
- balkaneu.com, EL, 7/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-albanians-prevented-serbs-enter-church/>

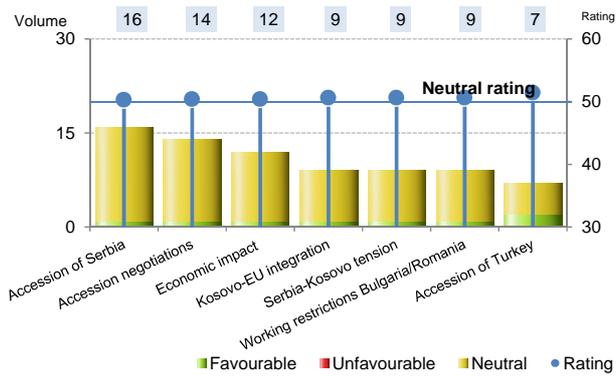
Tension between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece and Bulgaria

"Greece's handing over Tsar Samuil remains to Bulgaria is a blow to Macedonia" is the headline of an article published on 24vesti.mk, which comments on yesterday's material in Bulgarian 24 Chasa daily that reported that the remains of Tsar Samuil will be handed over by Greece to Bulgaria as the 1000th anniversary of his death is to be marked this year. According to the article, the remains will arrive in Bulgaria as the authorities intend to build a monument to Tsar Samuil in the capital city Sofia. The monument is to mark the 1000th anniversary of his death. Historians in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia believe this is a joint attack on the part of Bulgaria and Greece and another blow to their history, future and EU integration processes. Historian Todor Chepreganov stated Tsar Samuil's origins were clear enough (focus-fen.net, BG, 6/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 6/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n323108>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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ELARG: Highlights
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Volume	34 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	11.8%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	88.2%

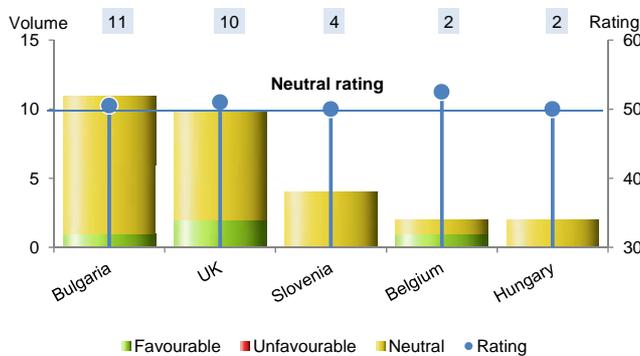
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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	8
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	7
Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council)	5
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3

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