



## Key Quotes

The European Union voiced its concern Wednesday over the political turmoil convulsing Turkey as the government conducted a new mass purge of senior police officers. **"We urge Turkey, as a candidate country committed to the political criteria of accession, including the application of the rule of law, to take all the necessary measures to ensure that allegations of wrongdoing are addressed without discrimination or preference in a transparent and impartial manner,"** the bloc said in a statement (Yahoo!, UK, 8/1).

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-moves-curb-powers-judiciary-164400061.html#cVKN3qT>

Greek ambassador to Serbia Constantinos Ikonomidis has stated, on the occasion of the beginning of the Greek presidency over the EU, that the intergovernmental conference of Serbia and the Union, on January 21, will be a historic moment for Serbia and the region. **"This will officially mark the start of the accession negotiations between the EU and Serbia. It will be a historic moment both for Serbia on its EU pathway and the enlargement process in the Western Balkans as a whole. Greece intends to offer full support to Serbia in the process of the EU accession negotiations,"** the ambassador told Tanjung (mykosmos.gr, GR, 8/1).

[http://www.mykosmos.gr/loc\\_mk/news/greece/2378436/san-shmera.htm](http://www.mykosmos.gr/loc_mk/news/greece/2378436/san-shmera.htm)

## Summary

### Visit to Brussels by Austrian Foreign Minister

In an interview with the ORF programme "Report", Austrian foreign minister Sebastian Kurz talked about the future of the EU and his plans for overcoming the standstill in Austrian foreign policy. Mr Kurz said he was in favour of a stronger personalisation in the EU and is optimistic that the relationship and identification of citizens with the EU will become stronger. In his position as foreign minister, Mr Kurz is planning to promote mainly Austrian relations with the Western Balkans. The target is for Albania to be granted EU candidate status next June (ORF2, AT, 7/1). During his visit to Brussels the Foreign Minister also said that he hopes "Greece will cease to block the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". He added that the EU commissioner agreed relatively quickly, that the name issue should not be an issue that prevents the prospect of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (newsbomb.gr, EL, 7/1).

- ORF2, AT, 7/1, [link not available]
- newsbomb.gr, EL, 7/1, <http://www.newsbomb.gr/ethnika/story/389984/ypex-aystrias-elpizo-pos-i-ellada-tha-papsei-na-mplokarei-tin-pqdm>

### Turkish Corruption scandal

Dogan news agency reported that some 600 police officers are being relocated following a midnight purge of 350 officers at the Ankara Police Department in the single biggest wave of a government response to an ongoing graft probe launched against it. The 350 were reportedly working in units specializing in terrorism, intelligence, organized crimes, financial crimes, cybercrimes and smuggling. It added that around 80 of those dismissed were police chiefs while the others were officers working at lower ranks. The sweep also included a deputy head of Ankara's police forces. Some 250 officers have reportedly replaced the relocated officers at the Ankara Police Department. The sons of two ex-ministers and the general manager of state-owned bank Halkbank remain in custody following the corruption probe, which began last December. In a tit-for-tat response - as daily Hurriyet writes, police officers, including Istanbul Police Chief Huseyin Capkin, were sacked or moved to different positions. The probe highlighted the deepening conflict between the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the movement of Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen, whose followers are said to hold key positions inside the secret services, police and judiciary and are believed to be behind the investigation. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and several government officials have repeatedly suggested there is "a parallel state" within the police department and especially the judiciary plotting the probe (ansa.it, IT, 7/1). Suddeutsche-Zeitung (DE, 8/1) comments that Turkish Premier Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's latest action looks like he is responding with "manic" restructuring. They think Mr Erdoğan is so desperate he is even trying to co-operate with his former enemies in order to change the constitution. The article predicts a year of political turmoil in Turkey. The BBC (UK, 8/1) reports that several European countries continue to have serious misgivings over Turkey's EU membership, and Germany and France have called for it to have a "privileged partnership" with the EU instead of full membership.

- ansa.it, IT, 7/1, [http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2014/01/07/Turkey-600-police-officers-relocated-sweep-Ankara\\_9859606.html](http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2014/01/07/Turkey-600-police-officers-relocated-sweep-Ankara_9859606.html)
- Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 8/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140108/mi/item\\_182559302.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140108/mi/item_182559302.pdf)
- bbc.co.uk, UK, 8/1, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17988453>

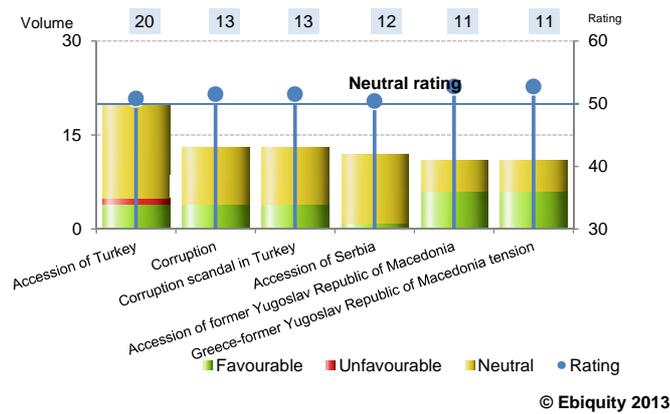
### Assistance for BiH

The European Union's (EU) Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) will provide 7.5 million euros to Bosnia and Herzegovina over the next 2.5 years to support the prosecution of war crimes during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war (portalino.it, IT, 7/1).

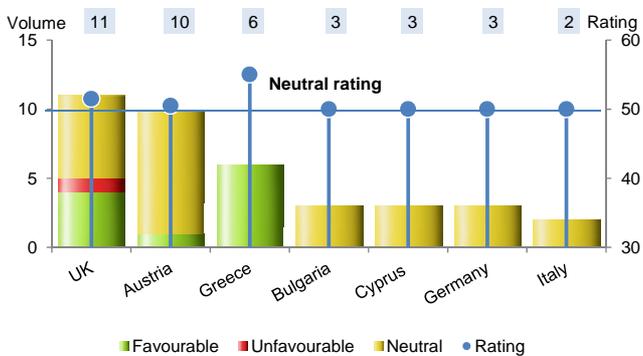
- portalino.it, IT, 7/1, [http://www.portalino.it/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1015949&catid=32:consumer&Itemid=72](http://www.portalino.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1015949&catid=32:consumer&Itemid=72)

## Charts

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Unfavourable %	2.5%
Neutral %	70.7%

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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Sebastian Kurz (Foreign Minister, Austria)	16
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	15
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	13
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	8
Dervis Eroğlu (Turkish Cypriot leader)	3
Alexander Downer (UN Special Adviser on Cyprus)	3
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	2

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