



## Key Quotes

Turkish leaders met on Monday to try to defuse a row over a controversial move by the government of embattled Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to curb the powers of the judiciary. The United States and the European Union have both voiced concern over the measure, with EU enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle calling for Ankara to ensure the proposals are in line with the principles of EU legislation. But deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç dismissed the EU stance, saying the bloc should understand how the system operates in Turkey. **"Would it be bad if there is a mechanism that could inspect its (the judiciary's) unlawful activities?"** he said. **"It is not right for the EU to make any statement or voice criticism about a proposal that is being discussed in Turkey's parliament"** (Yahoo! UK, 14/1).

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkey-president-opposition-discuss-pm-39-judicial-curbs-145734360.html#ZiK4xf>

Turkey has refused to apologise to Serbia for a remark made by Prime Minister Recep Erdoğan on Kosovo in October. Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said that the words were intended as an expression of friendship towards Serbia. **"It is a cultural definition - when you say in Turkish that Kosovo is someone's other country, it is an indication of close cultural ties,"** Davutoğlu said **"I sincerely hope that this should be enough to show our good intentions towards the Serbian government and the Serbian people,"** the minister added. (ansamed.info, IT, 13/1).

[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/01/13/Kosovo-Turkey-not-apologize-Serbia-remarks\\_9889909.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/01/13/Kosovo-Turkey-not-apologize-Serbia-remarks_9889909.html)

## Summary

### Ankara wants Euro-lifeboat from French President Hollande

Prime Minister Erdoğan plans to utilise the visit of French President Hollande to Turkey on 27-28 January to lift the pressures exerted due to the corruption scandals faced by his government, as well as to secure the opening of another accession negotiation chapter - Economic and Monetary Policy (Phileleftheros, CY, 12/1). The European Union and the United States are urging Turkey to respect the independence of the judiciary and to ensure an impartial clarification of allegations of corruption (derwesten.de, DE, 13/1).

· Phileleftheros, CY, 12/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140112/mi/item\\_183159464.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140112/mi/item_183159464.pdf)

· derwesten.de, DE, 13/1, <http://www.derwesten.de/ikz/politik/schlaegerei-im-tuerkischen-parlament-aimp-id8864805.html>

### Montenegrin government agenda

The Montenegrin Government agenda for 2014 is putting particular emphasis on continuing Montenegro's EU and NATO integration processes, in particular through the implementation of the obligations from the action plans for chapters 23 and 24. It will also pursue structural and overall reforms, and make efforts towards building effective public institutions, strengthening the rule of law, as preconditions for further democratic development of the country in order to make it competitive and able to attract foreign investment, he added (balkans.com, UK, 13/1).

· balkans.com, UK, 13/1, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=187152>

### Report on Serbia

Serbia's Minister responsible for European Integration, Branko Ružić stated that the positive impression of Rapporteur for the European Parliament, Jelko Kacin, regarding Serbia's capacity for European integration is a confirmation of the dedicated work of the government and its potential for reforms. Ružić told the Tanjug news agency that the credibility of the Serbian government and its ability to cope with problems have been recognised, as well as its ability to show vision and have a comprehensive perspective of the future of the society and the state. Kacin's proposal on how to solve the problem of false asylum seekers is very welcome, Ružić noted and added that as part of the proposal, Serbia would be declared a safe country of origin (balkans.com, UK, 13.1) Kacin, urged Serbia to keep up its struggle against human trafficking and other organised crime so as to avoid the reintroduction of visas for its citizens (Vecer, SI, 11/1).

· balkans.com, UK, 13/1, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=187158>

· Vecer, SI, 11/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140111/mi/item\\_183160219.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140111/mi/item_183160219.pdf)

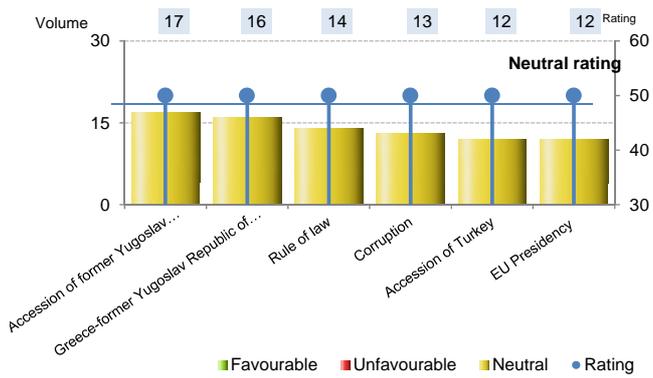
### Right time for crisis management over the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

When asked about when the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would be let into the EU at a reception held by Greece, which currently holds the EU presidency, the response from a Greek government communications official was icy silence, writes Annika Ström Melin in an opinion piece in Dagens Nyheter (SE, 12/1). In Greece's view, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's choice of name indicates territorial aspirations on parts of Greece and Bulgaria which were historically part of 'Macedonia'. The door to the EU thus remains closed, while Bulgarian minorities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are being persecuted. The time seems ripe for some crisis management - something it is said the EU is very good at.

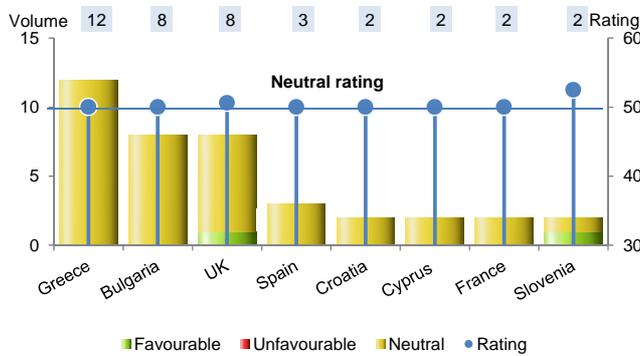
· Dagens-Nyheter, SE, 12/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140112/mi/item\\_183149044.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140112/mi/item_183149044.pdf)

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**ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece)	10
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	8
Kristian Vigenin (FM Bulgaria)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
John Kerry (Secretary of State, U.S.)	3

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