

Key Quotes

As tensions rise again in Kosovo after the killing of a Serbian politician in the North, the country's minister in charge of EU affairs, Vlora Çitaku, called on the EU to be more *“responsive”* towards her newly-formed state. *“1.7 million Kosovars are fully isolated. We know that this is not 2009 when all the region got visa free regime, we know that Europe has changed since then, but since the dialogue was launched, we only had one report and one mission even though we’ve delivered on everything required,”* she said. Unlike its neighbours, Kosovo was given more than a hundred conditions to fulfil, the minister said. *“It’s fine, they serve us as a guiding instrument, we don’t take it personally, but we would like the Commission to be more responsive, we just want more interaction,”* she said (Euractiv.com, BE, 17/1). <http://www.euractiv.com/enlargement/eu-foot-dragging-kosovo-raises-c-news-532826>

European Parliament overwhelmingly adopts reports condemning LGBT situation in Serbia and Kosovo. Jelko Kacin MEP, Member of the Intergroup on LGBT rights and Rapporteur on Serbia, said: *“Slowly but steadily, equal rights are progressing in Serbia and Kosovo, but more efforts are needed to effectively guarantee the rule of law and ensure the human rights of the LGBTI minority.”* *“I am particularly concerned that the anti-discrimination law isn’t implemented very well, and that Belgrade Pride was banned yet again last September”* (Pinknews.co.uk, UK, 16/1). <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/01/16/european-parliament-overwhelmingly-adopts-reports-stating-need-for-lgbt-inclusion-in-serbia-and-kosovo/>

Summary

Lessening of tension in the Balkans?

Serbia and Kosovo fully deserve to take the next step forward on their respective paths to the European Union, Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle told the European Parliament on January 15. *“100 years ago, a spark in the Balkans ignited a war that engulfed Europe in chaos and devastation. Ever since then, our collective memory has too often associated the Balkans with unrest and conflict,”* Füle said. *“By contrast, over the past months, the news from the Balkans is about renewed dialogue, increased intra-regional trade and building of bridges”* (neurope.eu, BE, 15/1). However unknown assailants have shot dead a local Serbian politician in the ethnically divided northern town of Mitrovica. Dimitrije Janičijević was killed early on January 16. Janičijević was a member of the recently elected local council from the Independent Liberal Party, a coalition partner in the Kosovo government and he also ran for mayor of Mitrovica North, the Serbian part of the town. The results of that election were annulled and new elections are scheduled for next month after the Serbian winner refused to swear allegiance to Kosovo's ethnic Albanian authorities (rferl.org, CZ, 16/1).

- neurope.eu, BE, 15/1, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/fule-kosovo-serbia-deserve-take-next-step-eu-path>
- rferl.org, CZ, 16/1, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-serb-politician-killed/25231976.html>

Legal reforms in Turkey

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan said trust in Turkey's legal system was essential to it attaining its long-term growth goals, as the government pressed ahead with plans to assert control over the judiciary. Babacan, in charge of the economy and seen by investors as a market-friendly voice in the ruling AK Party, said Turkey's aim of reaching an average national income of \$25,000 per person would be unreachable if investors, foreign and domestic, could not rely on the courts (uk.reuters.com, UK, 16/1). The Turkish government's controversial proposed amendment to its law on the Supreme Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) to increase its control over the judiciary will be vetted by the EU before it goes to a vote, the EU Commission made known Tuesday. *“The Commission will examine the bill and share its views with Turkish authorities before any vote takes place”*, it said in a note (ansamed.info, IT, 15/1).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 16/1, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/01/16/uk-turkey-corruption-babacan-idUKBREA0F0GZ20140116>
- ansamed.info, IT, 15/1, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2014/01/15/EU-Turkey-Brussels-examine-judicial-amendment-pre-vote_9902646.html

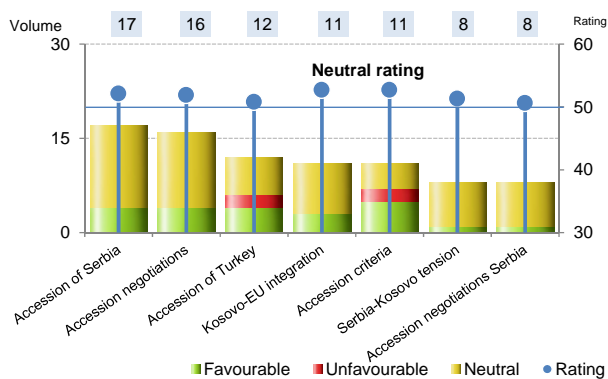
Gender balance in Serbia Kosovo talks

The talks between Kosovo and Serbia and the accession negotiations are golden opportunities for the EU and Catherine Ashton to show a commitment to UN security council resolution 1325, reinforced recently by resolution 2122, on women, peace and security. These resolutions recognise women's right to participate in peace negotiations and call for inclusion of a gender perspective during repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction. However, women and women's organisations from Kosovo and Serbia are neither consulted nor included in these talks (theparliament.com, BE, 15/1).

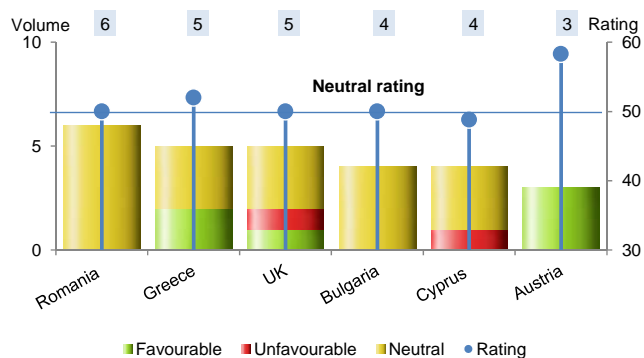
- theparliament.com, BE, 15/1, <http://www.theparliament.com/latest-news/article/newsarticle/eu-has-obligation-to-include-womens-organisations-in-kosovo-serbia-talks/#.UtdpYfQW3Tp>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	34 items
Rating	51.6
Favourable %	26.5%
Unfavourable %	5.9%
Neutral %	67.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	15
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Ivica Dačić Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Foreign Minister, Germany)	4
Sebastian Kurz (Foreign Minister, Austria)	3
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (MEP)	3
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2

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