



## Key Quotes

Germany's Foreign Minister has urged the EU to advance stalled talks on Turkish membership. Frank-Walter Steinmeier said the talks could improve legal and human rights standards amid the government's corruption woes. **"The door must stay open for Turkey,"** Steinmeier said (dw.de, DE, 3/2).

<http://www.dw.de/germanys-steinmeier-urges-eu-to-resume-talks-on-turkeys-membership-bid/a-17405555>

The European Parliament's Socialist leader came under fire Monday for proposing that this year's Nobel peace prize be awarded to Kosovo's premier Hashim Thaçi. Head of the Czech Socialist MEPs Richard Falbr said he was personally opposed to the nomination given Thaçi's **"more than bizarre past"** (eubusiness.com, UK, 3/2).

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/nobel-peace.tk4/>

## Summary

### Freedom of the press in Turkey

In November 2013, a Freedom House delegation travelled to Turkey to meet with journalists, NGOs, business leaders, and senior government officials about the deteriorating state of media freedom in the country. The delegation's objective was to investigate reports of government efforts to pressure and intimidate journalists and of overly close relationships between media owners and government, which, along with bad laws and overly aggressive prosecutors, have muzzled objective reporting in Turkey. The intentional weakening of Turkey's democratic institutions, including attempts to bully and censor Turkey's media, should and must be a matter of deep concern for the US and the EU. As the AKP's internal coalition has grown more fragile, Erdoğan has used his leverage over the media to push issues of public morality and religion and to squash public debate of the accountability of his government. The result is an increasingly polarized political arena and society (bne.eu, DE, 3/2).

- bne.eu, DE, 3/2, [http://www.bne.eu/storyf5717/COMMENT\\_Democracy\\_in\\_crisis\\_corruption\\_media\\_power\\_in\\_Turkey](http://www.bne.eu/storyf5717/COMMENT_Democracy_in_crisis_corruption_media_power_in_Turkey)

### Serbo-Kosovo tension

Relations between Pristina and Belgrade, although improved, clearly remain strained. President Nikolić recently stated he would not support Dačić standing next to Thaçi, *"even to collect a Nobel Peace Prize."* Alongside five other EU members – including Romania, Hungary and Spain – Serbia still does not acknowledge the sovereignty of its erstwhile province. Thus far, the EU has not formally demanded recognition, but the elephant in the room cannot be ignored much longer. Germany, in particular, has made clear that wholesale recognition should be a prerequisite for EU accession. The EU, known for its carrot-and-stick approach, is likely to use the opening of negotiations to force the issue onto the agenda (bne.eu, DE, 3/2). Russia will continue to cooperate with Serbia in the so-called issue of Kosovo, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov commented, *"Russia takes into consideration the progress in the negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina as well as the difficulties faced by Serbian citizens in Kosovo and Metohija"* Mr Lavrov said (focus-fen.net, BG, 3/2).

- bne.eu, DE, 3/2, [http://www.bne.eu/storyf5681/Snap\\_elections\\_economic\\_woes\\_cloud\\_Serbias\\_EU\\_path](http://www.bne.eu/storyf5681/Snap_elections_economic_woes_cloud_Serbias_EU_path)
- focus-fen.net, BG, 3/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/02/03/326103/moscow-willing-to-cooperate-with-belgrade-in-issue-of-kosovo.html>

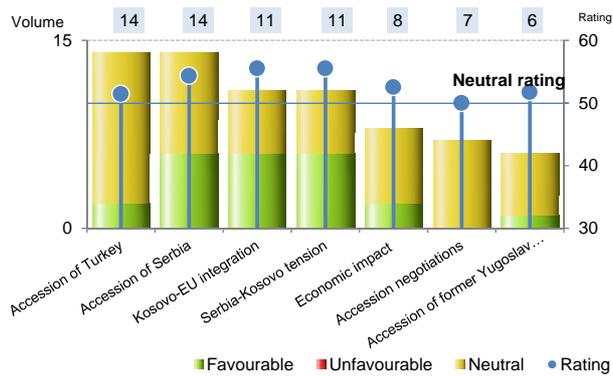
### BiH resolution

A draft resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina calls on leaders to ensure the implementation of the Sejdić-Finci ruling from the European Court for Human Rights and to consider the possibility of a merger of cantons in the Croat-Bosniak Federation with a view to simplifying the structure and ensuring more balanced representation. The document drafted by German MEP Doris Pack which also includes several amendments, some of which were proposed by seven Croatian deputies to the European Parliament, will be discussed by MEPs on Wednesday (dalje.com, HR, 2/2). President of the Republic of Srpska, Milorad Dodik, said he does not want to establish any isolated Republic of Srpska, but it will remain within BiH until we all realize that it is not sustainable (balkans.com, UK, 3/2).

- dalje.com, HR, 2/2, <http://dalje.com/en-world/bosnia-urged-to-ensure-balanced-representation-of-constituent-people/498540>
- balkans.com, UK, 3/2, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=188306>

## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



**ELARG: Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

<b>Volume</b>	39 items
<b>Rating</b>	52.4
<b>Favourable %</b>	28.2%
<b>Unfavourable %</b>	2.6%
<b>Neutral %</b>	69.2%

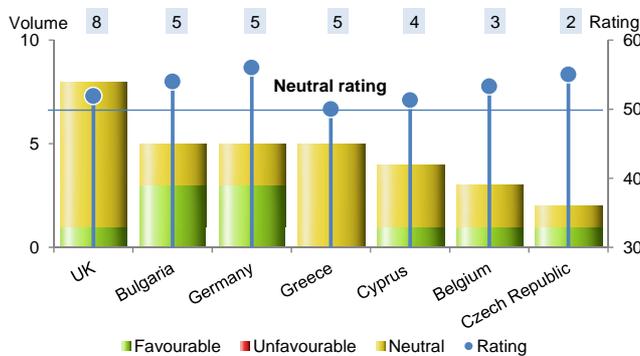
© Ebiquity 2014

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	8
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	3
Sergei Lavrov (Russian Foreign Minister)	2
Evangelos Venizelos (PM Greece)	2
Rosen Plevneliev (Bulgarian President)	2

© Ebiquity 2014

**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



**Disclaimer:** The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.