



Key Quotes

Turkey's new Internet law raises "*serious concerns*" over government control and the public's access to information, the European Commission said Thursday. "*This law is raising serious concerns here. The law in its current form introduces several restrictions on freedom of expression,*" Commission spokesman Peter Stano said. "*The Turkish public deserves more information and more transparency, not more restrictions.*" Since Turkey is a candidate for EU membership, the law "*needs to be revised in line with European standards,*" Stano told a press briefing (eubusiness.com, UK, 6/2).

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/turkey-politics.tmo>

EU leaders must show more commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina, set a date for starting EU accession talks with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and continue the talks with Montenegro, provided reforms are sustained, said MEPs in resolutions passed on Thursday. "*To achieve any progress on its path towards the EU, the political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina need to find a way to cooperate and to progress on the reform path. Another crucial factor for the country's European future is to amend the constitution to adopt the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Sejdic-Finci on discrimination of minorities,*" said the German rapporteur, Doris Pack (balkans.com, UK, 7/2).

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=188547>

Summary

Economic downturn in Turkey

The humble potato has become a factor in Turkey's political and economic turmoil as prices of the staple soar, hurting the living standards of poorer Turks just before the ruling AK Party's toughest election test in a decade. At a market in the lower-income Istanbul suburb of Kucukcekmece, potatoes sell for between 3 and 4 lira (\$1.33 and \$1.77) a kilogramme, up from slightly more than 1 lira at about this time last year. "*The issue is not the tomatoes or potatoes, but the structural problems in the Turkish food sector,*" Burak Kanli, an economist at Finans Invest, said in a report. "*Food price volatility in Turkey is seven times higher than the EU-27 average and the volatility is consistently increasing,*" he said, making a comparison with the European Union, which Turkey hopes eventually to join (uk.reuters.com, UK, 5/2).

· uk.reuters.com, UK, 5/2, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/05/uk-turkey-inflation-idUKBREA140UK20140205>

Serbian recognition of Kosovo

Cooperation does not mean recognising Kosovo said Serbian Minister for European Affairs Branko Ružić talking about the EU accession negotiations in an interview with the Kurier (AT, 6/2). He said that Serbia's relationship with the EU is defined by two processes: the rapprochement with Brussels and the normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, adding that the two processes "*should definitely not hinder each other*". The biggest obstacles "*is certainly Kosovo*" according to Mr Ružić.

· Kurier, AT, 6/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140206/mi/item_186300497.pdf

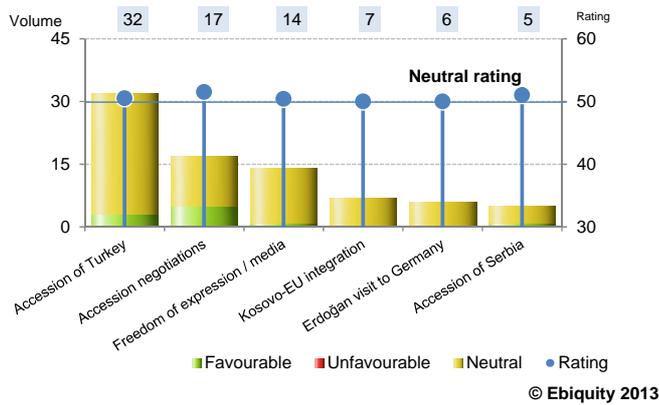
Unrest in BiH

Twenty-two people, including 17 police officers, were injured and 24 arrested when protesters in the northern Bosnian town of Tuzla clashed with police on Wednesday over the closure of local factories and firms. The incident pointed to deepening social unease over the state of the Bosnian economy and the political inertia in the country almost two decades since the end of its 1992-95 war. Years of ethnic politicking between former warring sides - Serbs, Croats and Muslim Bosniaks - has stifled economic development and progress towards integration with the European Union (uk.reuters.com, UK, 5/2).

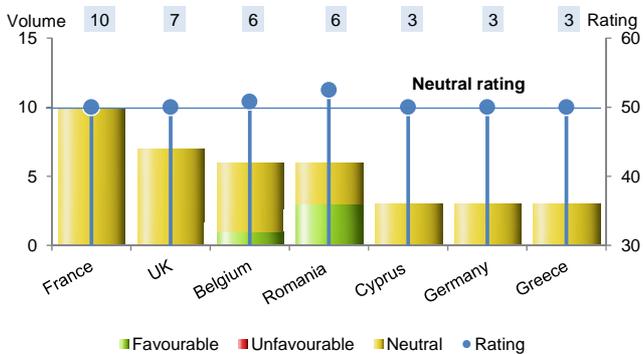
· uk.reuters.com, UK, 5/2, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/05/uk-bosnia-protest-idUKBREA141M220140205>

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