



## Key Quotes

European Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle, who is due to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Monday after recent demonstrations, said on Sunday that he followed the recent events in BiH with great concern and that European integration was the best way to address the problems of the country. **"I strongly believe that the best way to address the socio-economic challenges of this country, including creating employment and growth, is to get the European integration process moving again in BiH."** Füle said he would tell Bosnian politicians **"that this is not the time for confrontations between political parties. This is about the core issues of a functional state and citizens' well-being"** ([dalje.com](http://dalje.com), HR, 16/2).

<http://dalje.com/en-world/fuele-says-bosnias-european-integration-key-to-solve-problems/500031>

Cyprus will continue to support the efforts of the Serbian government and its people, in order to eventually become a full member of the EU, Defence Minister Photis Photiou has said. He added that the 1st EU – Serbia Intergovernmental Conference this year, on January 21, marking the opening of Serbia's negotiations for accession to the EU **was an event of historic importance, both for Serbia and the EU and at the same time constitutes a clear demonstration of both the EU's continuous commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkans, and the real commitment of Serbia and the Serbian people to the country's European perspective** ([famaqusta-gazette.com](http://famaqusta-gazette.com), CY, 15/2).

<http://famaqusta-gazette.com/defence-minister-cyprus-will-continue-to-support-serbias-efforts-to-becom-p22327-69.htm>

## Summary

### Turkey's Internet law

All eyes are on Turkey's president, Abdullah Gül, a co-founder with the Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, of the ruling Justice and Development (AK) party. A bill imposing drastic curbs on the internet, which critics say would put Turkey on a par with Iran and China, has been rammed through the AK-dominated parliament, to howls of protest from the opposition and the European Union ([economist.com](http://economist.com), UK, 14/2). Gül said on Thursday he saw problems with the controversial bill. Social media and video sharing sites have been awash with alleged recordings of ministers including Erdoğan and business allies presented as proof of wrongdoing in a graft scandal that has gripped the country. Reuters has been unable to verify their authenticity. Gül has around 10 more days to approve or veto the bill, which opponents say muzzles free speech. Erdoğan says the new law, which triggered street protests in Istanbul over the weekend, is essential to protecting privacy ([uk.reuters.com](http://uk.reuters.com), UK, 13/2).

- [economist.com, UK, 14/2, http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21596579-bill-imposing-restrictions-internet-presents-turkeys-president-dilemma-web](http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21596579-bill-imposing-restrictions-internet-presents-turkeys-president-dilemma-web)
- [uk.reuters.com, UK, 13/2, http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/13/uk-turkey-internet-idUKBREA1C18720140213](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/13/uk-turkey-internet-idUKBREA1C18720140213)

### Reunification of Cyprus

After years of foot-dragging by Greek-Cypriot leaders, who have been keener to block Turkey's efforts to join the European Union than to end the island's 40-year division, new talks on reunifying Cyprus are to start. Unlike his predecessors, President Nicos Anastasiades wants a deal with Dervis Eroğlu, his Turkish-Cypriot counterpart. According to a "road-map" put forward by the two men when they met on the UN's green line on February 11th, the two communities would unite under a confederation but run their affairs as "constituent states". So far, so good. But can tricky issues like property and security, which have sunk previous talks, be resolved this time? It helps that the Americans are involved; they have prodded officials in Ankara and Nicosia to back the new proposal ([economist.com](http://economist.com), UK, 14/2).

- [economist.com, UK, 14/2, http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21596573-yet-another-round-talks-reunify-divided-island-begins-glimmer-hope](http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21596573-yet-another-round-talks-reunify-divided-island-begins-glimmer-hope)

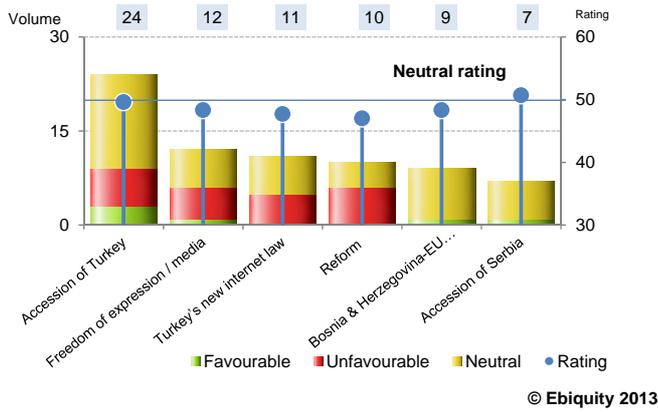
### The future for the BiH

Bosnians certainly have much to feel enraged about. This divided state has struggled to find a way forward. Unemployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina is variously estimated at between 25% and 45%, with the proportion of young jobless generally regarded as being over 50%. The average monthly net wage is just 828KM (€423), according to the most recent official figures, with the minimum wage less than half that. The country's financial woes alone, however, do not entirely explain the outbursts. *"Economic distress is almost a necessary condition for serious social or political instability, but it is not a sufficient one... Trouble is [often] accompanied by other elements of vulnerability,"* Laza Kekic, regional director for Europe at the EIU, tells [bne](http://bne.de) (DE, 14/2). Such factors include: wide income-inequality, poor government, low levels of social provision, ethnic tensions and a history of unrest. But, of particular importance in sparking unrest in recent times, says Kekic, is *"an erosion of trust in governments and institutions: a crisis of democracy"*.

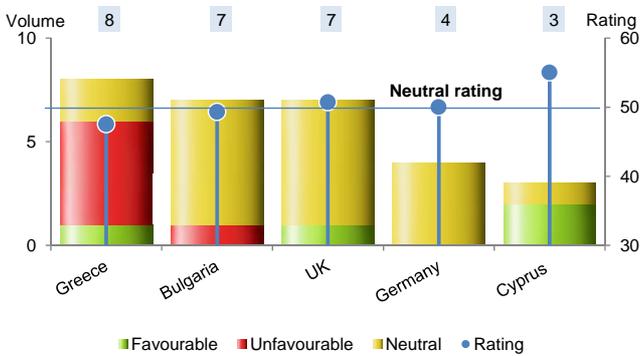
- [bne.eu, DE, 14/2, http://www.bne.eu/story5762/Assessing\\_the\\_risks\\_of\\_a\\_Balkan\\_meltdown](http://www.bne.eu/story5762/Assessing_the_risks_of_a_Balkan_meltdown)

## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
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**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
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**ELARG: Highlights**  
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Volume	35 items
Rating	49.4
Favourable %	11.4%
Unfavourable %	20%
Neutral %	68.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	10
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	7
Baroness Catherine Ashton (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	6
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (EU Affairs Minister, Turkey)	6
Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey)	6
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	3

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