



Key Quotes

Bosnia and Herzegovina needs more Europe not less, Greek Government Vice-President and Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos said on Wednesday: *"Our fundamental interest is the stability, territorial integrity and European perspective of this country and, of course, its citizens' prosperity". "The fate and future of this country is in the hands of its citizens. They have the right to a European future with security, with employment, with dignity,"* Venizelos added (amna.gr, GR, 19/2).

<http://www.amna.gr/english/articleview.php?id=5151>

Summary

Sarajevo mission ends in disappointment

A top EU official said Tuesday the bloc is shifting its focus in Bosnia and Herzegovina from constitutional changes to economic and judicial reform — issues at the root of three weeks of protests. Protests against poverty, unemployment and corruption have failed to provoke action from local politicians preoccupied with inter-ethnic bickering that blocks the country's path toward EU membership. The EU mediated between Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders for years without success on eliminating discrimination from the constitution, a condition for further talks about membership. The latest negotiations failed Tuesday morning with the EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, withdrawing as mediator and heading off to meet representatives of the protesters. *"It is a shame for politicians through inaction to fail because the rest of the region is moving forward toward the EU and because citizens are calling politicians to be accountable"* Füle said (dailymail.co.uk, UK, 18/2). Štefan Füle commented to BiH politicians *"I am disappointed. It is a pity that you cannot negotiate"* adding *"It was not mine, but the failure of BiH politicians"* (jutarnji.hr, HR, 18/2). The fact that politicians are not able to reach an agreement on handing out the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the Sejdić-Finci case after all these years, is shameful in the words of the European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle (Dnevnik, SI, 19/2).

- dailymail.co.uk, UK, 18/2, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2562047/EU-shift-focus-Bosnia-economy.html>
- jutarnji.hr, HR, 18/2, <http://www.jutarnji.hr/stefan-fuele-porucio-politicarima-u-bih--razocaran-sam--sramota-je-da-se-ne-mozete-dogovoriti--ja-se-povlacim-/1166169/>
- Dnevnik, SI, 19/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140219/mi/item_187992828.pdf

Turkey's Internet law signed

Turkish President Abdullah Gul has approved a new law tightening control of the Internet. It will enable the authorities to block access to web pages within hours without a prior court order. The controversial bill has sparked concerns over censorship which the government denies, saying it is making the internet safer (euronews.com, FR, 19/2). The European Union, which Turkey wants to eventually be part of, called the law *"a step backwards"* for press freedom (nd.nl, NL, 18/2).

- euronews.com, FR, 19/2, <http://www.euronews.com/2014/02/19/turkey-s-controversial-internet-law-gets-presidential-approval/>
- nd.nl, NL, 18/2, <http://www.nd.nl/artikelen/2014/februari/18/turkse-president-keurt-omstreden-internetwet-goed>

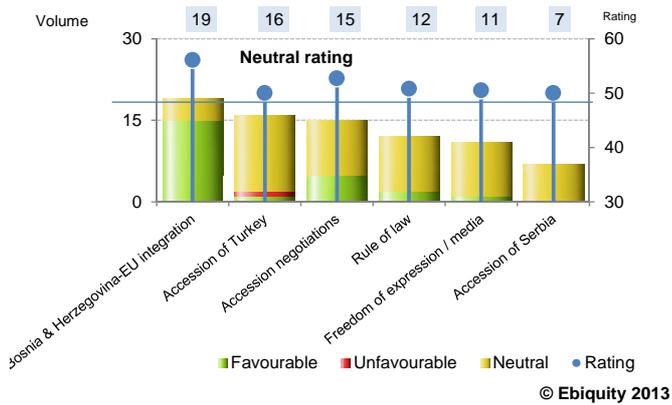
Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs has quite some explaining to do

Dutch parliament wants clarification from the Dutch Minister of foreign affairs on his statements with regards to Turkish accession to the EU. While meeting his Turkish counterpart recently he said he was in favour of welcoming Turkey to the EU as a Member State if Turkey was able to meet all the conditions. Dutch political parties feel that he should have warned Turkey rather than provided false promises (Telegraaf, NL, 19/2).

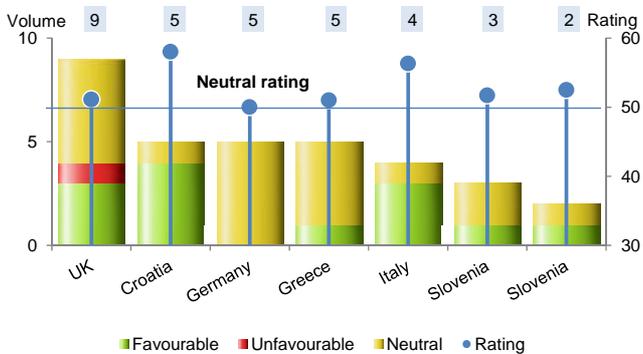
- Telegraaf, NL, 19/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140219/mi/item_187975382.pdf

Charts

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| Volume | 43 items |
| Rating | 52.7 |
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| Unfavourable % | 2.3% |
| Neutral % | 60.5% |

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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
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| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC) | 14 |
| Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey) | 12 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey) | 7 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 6 |
| Évangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece) | 6 |
| Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia) | 3 |
| Ivan Mrkić (Foreign Minister, Serbia) | 3 |

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