



## Key Quotes

Iceland not interested in joining EU. According to Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Gunnar Sveinsson, **a change of course will be implemented which will ultimately lead to Iceland withdrawing its application to join the EU**. While Iceland is part of Schengen and profits from the freedom of movement, it has been in conflict with Brussels over fisheries and maritime issues lately ([tagesschau.de](http://www.tagesschau.de), DE, 22/2).

<http://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/island368.html>

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece: **"Albania is already a member of NATO, and the European perspective is something that interests us very much as an element of stability and perspective for the Western Balkans. And it is also a matter that is interwoven with the partnership linking Greece with Albania"** ([mfa.gr](http://www.mfa.gr), GR, 22/2).

<http://www.mfa.gr/en/current-affairs/top-story/joint-statements-of-deputy-prime-minister-venizelos-and-albanian-foreign-minister-ditmir-bushati-following-their-meeting-in-tirana-21-february-2014.html>

## Summary

### Visit of the Greek Foreign Minister to Skopje

During the visit of Greek Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos to the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, the Greek minister was greeted by nationalists from radical groups the "World Macedonian Congress" and the "Association of the Aegean Children" who were holding banners accusing Greece of "occupation" and "genocide". Meanwhile, after Venizelos' refusal to hold a common press conference in the room bearing the inscription "Republic of Macedonia – Ministry of Foreign Affairs" in the background, the Foreign Minister of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki, mentioned sarcastically to journalists that *"the Greek minister doesn't seem to like the background."* Venizelos said Thursday that he senses an extra urgency among officials in Skopje to resolve the name dispute ([eu.greekreporter.com](http://eu.greekreporter.com), EL, 20/2) adding *"my personal impression is that the authorities are ready to take part not only in dialogue on the name issue, but also in dialogue on bilateral cooperation, because everyone realises that Greece is the door to the European integration"* ([focus-fen.net](http://focus-fen.net), BG, 21/2).

- [eu.greekreporter.com](http://eu.greekreporter.com), EL, 20/2, <http://eu.greekreporter.com/2014/02/20/contingencies-during-venizelos-visit-to-fyrom/>
- [focus-fen.net](http://focus-fen.net), BG, 21/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/02/21/327900/vecer-macedonias-road-to-eu-passes-through-greece-says-foreign-minister.html>

### Erdoğan seeking to retain power

Turkey's governing party may change its rules to allow Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to serve a fourth term as Prime Minister, his deputy said yesterday. The comments by Bulent Arinç are the clearest sign yet that the embattled leader plans to cling to power indefinitely, as critics accuse him of lurching towards authoritarianism. *"If we feel the need, we can change the principle, even though it is not on our agenda yet,"* Mr Arinç said. In the past, Mr Erdoğan has insisted that his current term as Prime Minister, due to end next year, will be his last, in line with his Justice and Development Party's internal. He was widely expected to run for president in elections due this August. The post, occupied by his long-time ally Abdullah Gül, is largely ceremonial. Mr Erdoğan has previously said that he hopes to change Turkey's constitution to create an executive presidency, but with his reputation battered by anti-government protests last summer and a corruption scandal in December, he has failed to win necessary cross-party support ([Times](http://times.co.uk), UK, 21/2).

- [Times](http://times.co.uk), UK, 21/2, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/kosovo-politics.u01>

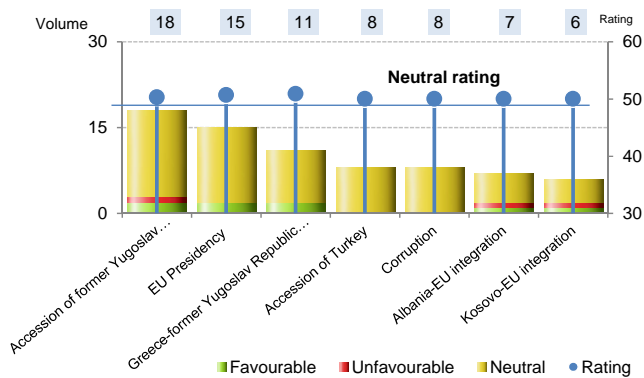
### Kosovo demands finalization of negotiations for the Stabilization and Association Agreement during the Greek presidency

During his first official visit to Kosovo in the framework of the tour launched in several Western Balkan countries, the Greek Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos had a meeting with his Kosovar counterpart where they addressed important issues affecting the two countries and the region in general. Mr Hoxhaj said that he demanded further Greek support from Mr Venizelos for the liberalization of visas for the citizens of Kosovo and also demanded Greece's support for the accession of Kosovo to regional organizations, especially the South Eastern Europe Cooperation Process ([balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), UK, 20/2).

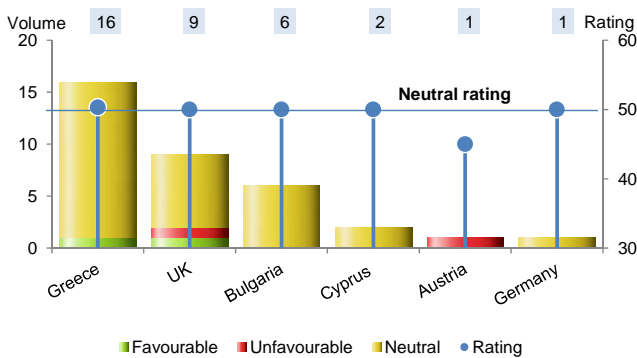
- [balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), UK, 20/2, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovos-foreign-minister-cooperation-kosovo-greece/>

## Charts

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|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume         | 35 items |
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| Unfavourable % | 5.7%     |
| Neutral %      | 88.6%    |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources                                      | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece)                     | 21                 |
| Nikola Poposki (Foreign Minister, Macedonia)                       | 5                  |
| Nikola Gruevski (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) | 4                  |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)                      | 4                  |
| Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)                                 | 3                  |
| Jim Currie (Former Director General of the European Commission )   | 3                  |
| José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)                                | 2                  |

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