



Key Quotes

On Monday EU Enlargement Commissioner, Štefan Füle, in a letter to DIKO MEP Antigone Papadopoulos said the return of Varosha would be one of the key elements of the negotiations for a comprehensive settlement. **"A comprehensive settlement agreed between the leaders of the two communities constitutes the quickest and most direct way to solving the problems related to the Cyprus issue, including on the return of Varosha to its lawful owners,"** said Füle (cyprus-mail, CY, 25/2).

<http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/02/25/mediators-move-on-with-concrete-issues/>

Cabinet Minister and the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy, The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke: **"The UK remains a strong supporter of EU enlargement on the basis of firm but fair conditionality and we will continue to monitor and assist the Western Balkan countries as they progress"** (gov.uk, UK, 24/2).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pms-trade-envoy-welcomes-focus-on-economic-development-in-western-balkans>

Summary

Is Iceland right to withdraw from EU negotiations?

After four years of debate, Iceland's governing coalition plans to withdraw its candidacy for EU accession without consulting the population in a referendum, as had originally been planned. In all likelihood Iceland's population would have supported the withdrawal, but the numbers show that voices critical of EU accession have been slowly receding over the years. Yet, the governing coalition has obvious motivation, it prefers not to follow the harsh legal guidelines of the European Union - especially regarding fishing quotas. However, Iceland has to be careful. The crisis is not over yet, many households are in debt and investors are staying away. In this situation, Iceland needs the EU more than the EU Iceland (Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 24/2). The Icelandic foreign minister is expected to deliver a resolution to the parliament to formally end the accession process (euobserver.com, BE, 21/2). Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson urged parliamentarians not to undermine the decision of the government (Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 24/2).

- Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 24/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140224/mi/item_188644366.pdf
- euobserver.com, BE, 21/2, <http://euobserver.com/tickers/123238>
- Suddeutsche-Zeitung, DE, 24/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140224/mi/item_188644320.pdf

EU expected to freeze Turkey's application over Erdoğan autocratic style

The European Union is expected to put Turkey's membership application on ice amid fears that the country's Prime Minister is steering his Government towards autocracy (thetimes.co.uk, UK, 24/2). **"It's a charade to pretend there is a genuine accession process going on"** said Andrew Duff, the MEP for East of England, and a long-time advocate of Turkey's membership (balkans.com, UK, 24/2). Human rights lawyer Achilleas Demetriades called on European Union leaders not to even consider opening chapter 23 in Turkey's accession process unless it abides by European Court of Human Rights judgements. He was responding to statements by Danish Prime minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, **"I heard the Danish Prime Minister saying that they are hoping they could open chapters 23 and 24 and that this was one of the reasons that they are so interested in what is happening in Cyprus"** he said (incyprus.philenews.com, CY, 23/2).

- thetimes.co.uk, UK, 24/2, <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4013868.ece>
- balkans.com, UK, 24/2, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=189406>
- incyprus.philenews.com, CY, 23/2, <http://incyprus.philenews.com/en-gb/Cyprus/4170/40099/turkey-must-remedy-greek-cypriot-rights>

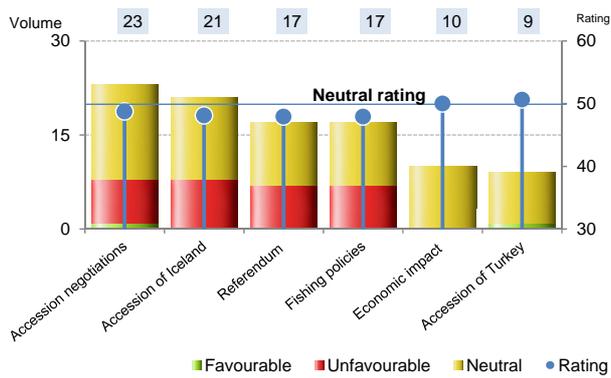
Local elections in Kosovo

Local elections results from Kosovo show a hard-line Kosovo Serb has been elected mayor of northern Mitrovica after a prolonged electoral race that was soured by the killing of one candidate and the arrest of another. Official preliminary results from the February 23 mayoral election show Goran Rakić, a Belgrade-backed candidate, winning 52.6 percent of the ballots. More than 28,000 voters were registered to cast ballots. Rakić's main contender, Oliver Ivanović, is in detention after a European Union prosecutor indicted him for alleged war crimes against ethnic Albanians in 1999 and alleged murder in 2000. NATO peacekeepers and EU police were on heightened security in the Serb-dominated northern part of divided Mitrovica during the vote. It was the fourth ballot in as many months (rferl.org, CZ, 24/2).

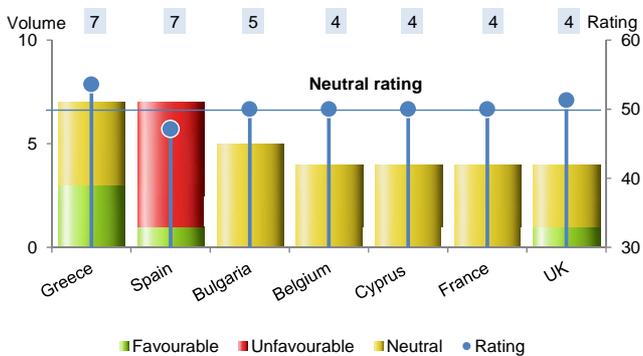
- rferl.org, CZ, 24/2, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-mitrovica-north-mayor-election-results-/25274769.html>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	44 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	11.4%
Unfavourable %	18.2%
Neutral %	70.4%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece)	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Edi Rama (Prime Minister, Albania)	4
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson (Foreign Minister, Iceland)	3
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	2
Ditmir Bushati (Foreign Minister, Albania)	2
Andrew Duff (MEP)	2

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