



## Key Quotes

Serbia Prime Minister Ivica Dačić: **'We haven't had stability in the Balkans for 100 years – but now we have the same goal, joining the EU'**. He added: **"Opening EU accession talks is a historic moment for Serbia, because in this way our path for next 15 to 20 years has been determined. It is our agenda to be ready and to become a full-fledged member of the EU by 2020"** (The Independent, UK, 25/2).

[http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140225/mi/item\\_188789770.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140225/mi/item_188789770.pdf)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/exclusive-interview-with-serbia-prime-minister-ivica-dacic-we-havent-had-stability-in-the-balkans-for-100-years-but-now-we-have-the-same-goal-joining-the-eu-9150505.html>

The head of the delegation of the German Bundestag, Johanness Selle said that Germany supports Kosovo's aspiration for EU accession. He said that the project for a united Europe has been successful and **"we want Western Balkan to be part of Europe"** (balkaneu.com, GR, 25/2).  
<http://www.balkaneu.com/germany-supports-kosovos-accesion-eu/>

## Summary

### Protests in Iceland

Thousands of protesters thronged the streets of the Icelandic capital Reykjavik on Monday to demand a referendum after the government said it was dropping its EU membership bid without a popular vote. Police said around 3,500 protestors gathered outside the parliament in the biggest street demonstrations since the 2009 financial crisis to demand the government honour a May election pledge to hold a referendum on EU membership. Opposition parties complained that no time had been allocated to debate the issue and the motion was postponed. It is expected to be introduced again in the coming days. The government move was hotly contested by Icelanders from both the pro and anti-EU sides who argued that Foreign Minister Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson had back-tracked on previous promises. As tempers flared inside and outside the parliament, the opposition demanded an explanation for the referendum being scrapped, while Sveinsson criticised the speaker for withdrawing his motion (eubusiness.com, UK, 24/2). According to a new poll conducted by Maskína, 67.5 percent of those surveyed said they wanted a national referendum on whether to continue EU talks (euobserver.com, BE, 25/2).

- eubusiness.com, UK, 24/2, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/iceland-membership.u1x/>
- euobserver.com, BE, 25/2, <http://euobserver.com/news/123255>

### Turkey President Gül calls for a fast change on the internet law

Turkish President Abdullah Gül defended his decision to approve a controversial law imposing government restrictions on the Internet on Sunday, after receiving assurances from legislators that problematic stipulations in the bill would be amended. *"I could have chosen the easier and more popular way and vetoed it,"* Gul said. *"But in this election atmosphere the government would most likely have passed it again in the same form, and I would then have had no constitutional choice but to sign it with no improvements"* he added (ilmondo.it, IT, 24/2). Dozens of protesters were arrested in Istanbul during anti-government demonstrations against the entry into force of the controversial restrictive legislation on the Internet (giornalettismo.com, IT, 24/2).

- ilmondo.it, IT, 24/2, [http://www.ilmondo.it/esteri/2014-02-24/turchia-presidente-gul-chiede-modifica-rapida-legge-internet\\_415435.shtml](http://www.ilmondo.it/esteri/2014-02-24/turchia-presidente-gul-chiede-modifica-rapida-legge-internet_415435.shtml)
- giornolettismo.com, IT, 24/2, <http://www.giornalettismo.com/archives/1375105/le-proteste-per-la-legge-anti-internet-in-turchia>

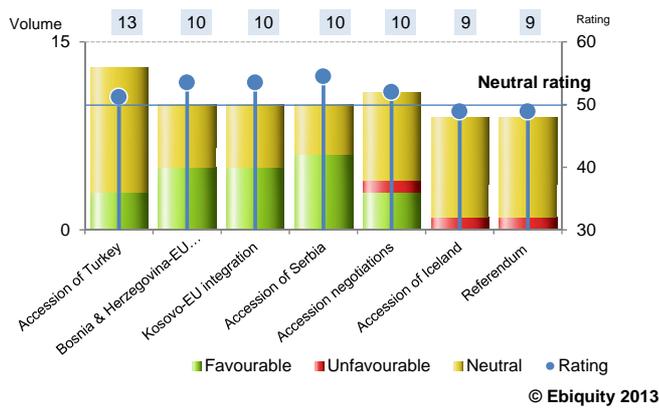
### BiH problems

Bosnian Prime Minister (sic) Vjekoslav Bevanda said improving people's living standards is the only solution to the recent unrest in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bevanda on February 24 called the unrest a *"local fire"* that can be put out *"very quickly"* if the government takes action to raise living standards. Bevanda was speaking at an economic forum aimed at boosting investment levels in the western Balkans that was hosted by the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (rferl.org, CZ, 24/2). Observers, including Paddy Ashdown the former top international official in post-war Bosnia, have called for outside intervention to ensure the situation does not deteriorate into a more dangerous crisis. With governance frequently hostage to ethnic politics, the economy has struggled to keep up with its ex-Yugoslav peers. More than one in four of the Bosnian workforce is unemployed (uk.reuters.com, UK, 24/2).

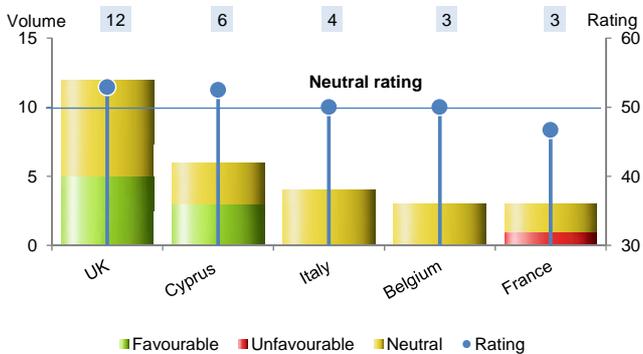
- rferl.org, CZ, 24/2, <http://www.rferl.org/content/bosnia-unrest-bevanda/25275703.html>
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 24/2, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/24/uk-bosnia-bevanda-idUKBREA1N19T20140224>

## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



**ELARG: Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	41 items
Rating	51.2
Favourable %	22%
Unfavourable %	2.4%
Neutral %	75.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson (Prime Minister, Iceland)	5
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	4
Vjekoslav Bevanda (Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina)	4
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
Kenneth Clarke (Cabinet Minister, UK)	3

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