



Key Quotes

"Financial aid of the European Union (EU) for the countries in the West Balkans is bound with the concrete progress in terms of the European integration," Bulgarian MEP Evgeni Kirilov said in an interview with FOCUS News Agency (Focus News, BG, 26/2).
<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/02/26/328399/bulgaria-mep-financial-aid-for-west-balkans-connected-with-eu-integration.html>

Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said that his country was prepared to assist Serbia whenever necessary in its European integration process, underscoring that he personally advocated Serbia's accelerated path to the European Union. **"I am not a prophet and I cannot predict the exact date of Serbia's EU entry, but I can acknowledge the great will of the Serb population and policy to launch reforms and preparations for joining the bloc,"** Kurz said (dalje.com HR, 26/2).
<http://dalje.com/en-world/kurz-says-austria-will-help-serbia-on-its-eu-path/501048>

Summary

Icelanders protest EU candidacy withdrawal without referendum (romanioliberal.ro, RO, 25/2)

"It would be awful if this parliamentary resolution of withdrawing from the EU membership talks was passed. We could end up as the backwoods of Europe," said pensioner Gudni Johannsson, 68, one of the protesters gathered outside parliament for a second day. Iceland's top three banks collapsed in late 2008 under massive debts, a shock to the island of around 300,000 people that initially boosted support for EU membership as a way to bring economic stability. But Europe's own sovereign debt problems eroded interest in joining the bloc. The Progressive and Independence parties made big gains in last year's elections as voters, fed up with years of austerity and rising debts, punished the incumbent Social Democrats (euractiv.com, FR, 26/2). The government halted indefinitely the talks as discrepancies emerged over fishing and trade issues (focus-fen.net, BG, 26/2). Trade of fish and fishery products generates some 90% of Iceland's GDP, and last year the EU threatened to impose a ban on selling some of the country's seafood. The measure was explained citing environmental grounds. Iceland's application for the bloc has not yet been withdrawn due to the opposition's claim that there has not been enough debate in Parliament on the issue (novinite.com, BG, 25/2).

- stockwatch.com.cy, CY, 25/2, http://www.stockwatch.com.cy/nqcontent.cfm?a_name=news_view&ann_id=192971&lang=en
- euractiv.com, FR, 26/2, <http://www.euractiv.com/enlargement/icelanders-protest-bill-eu-membe-news-533765>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 26/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/02/26/328342/thousands-of-icelanders-protest-over-eu-membership-bid-exit.html>
- novinite.com, BG, 25/2, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/158471/Icelanders+Protest+for+EU+Membership+Referendum>

Earthquake in house of Erdogan! (axiplus.gr, EL, 25/2)

The Turkish opposition has once again demanded that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan resign after a tape was uploaded onto YouTube Monday evening allegedly containing wiretaps of four phone calls between the premier and his son Bilal, in which they discuss concealing large amounts of money. The prime minister's office has said that tape is fake, while Erdoğan himself called it a "vile attack". Erdoğan and his son seem to be discussing how to conceal large sums of money located in the homes of several people linked to their family. Turkish media say that the telephone calls were made on December 17, the day when a graft scandal broke and 52 people near the government were arrested, including children of three ministers (ansamed.info, IT, 25/2). Foreign investors in Turkey are beginning to feel the effects of a sagging currency, rising inflation and a growing political power struggle, adding to fears the country may not be the source of future growth that some companies had hoped (uk.reuters.com, UK, 25/2).

- axiplus.gr, EL, 25/2, <http://www.axiplus.gr/article/62462/seismos-sto-spiti-toy-erntogan/>
- ansamed.info, IT, 25/2, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/turkey/2014/02/25/Calls-Erdogan-resign-wiretaps-posted-YouTube_10142507.html
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 25/2, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/25/turkey-investment-idUKL6N0LU1PV20140225>

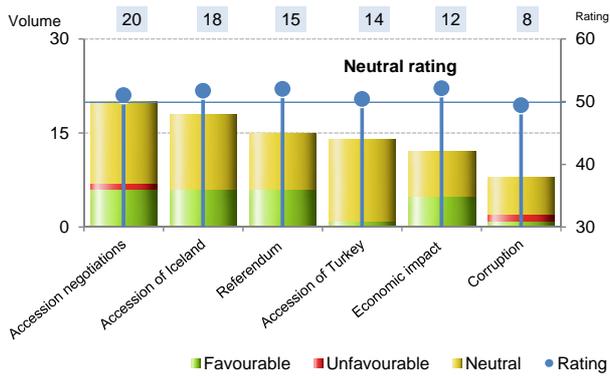
Privatisations in Serbia

Serbia could privatise up to 100 state-owned companies and enact wide-ranging reform of the business environment if the government is re-elected in next month's general election, Ivica Dačić, the Serbian Prime Minister has said. **"We want Serbia to be the best possible environment for foreign investments in the region,"** Dačić said in an interview in Serbia's London embassy (blogs.ft.com, UK, 25/2).

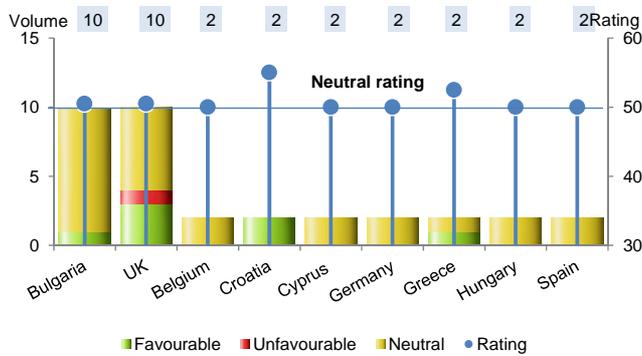
blogs.ft.com, UK, 25/2, <http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2014/02/25/serbias-pm-promises-much-but-obstacles-loom/?catid=677&SID=google#axzz2uOxYnpqT>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	39 items
Rating	50.8
Favourable %	20.5%
Unfavourable %	2.6%
Neutral %	76.9%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	10
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson (Foreign Minister, Iceland)	4
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	3

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