



Key Quotes

British EU Minister David Lidington, who was in Ankara to meet Turkish EU Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and attend an energy forum, voiced his country's strong support in the opening of the chapter on energy in membership talks between Turkey and the European Union, while arguing that it is not possible to speak about energy in Europe without mentioning Turkey. "**Lidington, in an interview with Anadolu Agency, recalled that the opening of the energy chapter had been blocked by Greek Cyprus, a member of the EU since 2004,**" the paper writes and reports that Lidington said that all blocks on chapters should be lifted in the shortest possible time and the path for Turkey's EU membership should be smoothed (hri.org, CY, 27/2).

<http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2014/14-02-27.tcpr.html>

Summary

32,000 Icelanders call a referendum on the EU (lesoir.be, BE, 26/2)

Since the weekend when the proposal to abandon negotiations became public, about 32,000 people, close to 10% of the country's population, have signed an online petition urging a referendum. Protests have also been held outside parliament (lse.co.uk, UK, 27/2). The Icelandic Government, where two Eurosceptic parties cohabit, announced on Friday that it would defend in Parliament a bill giving the power to "withdraw the application for accession to the EU" (Echos, FR, 27/2). "The government has betrayed its promise". "I am against the membership, but it is outrageous that we're prohibited so brutally from the chance to express ourselves", says Aslaug, one of the protesters (Monde, FR, 27/2). Three opposition parties - including the Social Democrats, which led the left-leaning government that applied for EU membership in 2009 - proposed a referendum in connection with local elections set for the end of May. The Left Greens, which were also part of the former government, said accession talks should remain on ice but wanted a referendum before the parliamentary term ends in 2017 (morningstar.co.uk, UK, 27/2).

- lesoir.be, BE, 26/2, <http://www.lesoir.be/480003/article/actualite/fil-info/fil-info-monde/2014-02-26/32000-islandais-exigent-un-referendum-sur-l-ue>
- lse.co.uk, UK, 27/2, <http://www.lse.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=rjojvxx6&headline=Iceland sees protests over proposal to withdraw EU application>
- Echos, FR, 27/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140227/mi/item_189051553.pdf
- Monde, FR, 27/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140227/mi/item_189008576.pdf
- morningstar.co.uk, UK, 27/2, http://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/news/AN_1393482299967592700/iceland-sees-protests-over-proposal-to-withdraw-eu-application.aspx

European Parliament approves the readmission agreement with Turkey

The European Parliament ratified the agreement for the readmission of illegal migrants to Turkey. Kathimerini (EL, 27/2) reports that an important step has been taken for tackling illegal migration in Greece. It adds that the degree it will be implemented remains to be seen. A Greek official told Kathimerini that the fact that the monitoring will go through the European Commission gives different weight to the agreement, because if it is not followed through, it will be recorded as a negative factor in the Turkish accession progress.

- Kathimerini, EL, 27/2, http://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/news/AN_1393482299967592700/iceland-sees-protests-over-proposal-to-withdraw-eu-application.aspx

Turkey: Gül signs the controversial bill

Turkey's President Abdullah Gül signed a law on Wednesday that critics say threatens the independence of the Turkish judiciary as a furious political battle leaves its mark on the country's institutions. Mr Gül said he was signing the law which boosts government powers over the body that supervises Turkey's judges and prosecutors, after legislators had amended provisions that he said were unconstitutional. He also noted that the country's constitutional court would scrutinise other contentious sections of the legislation. But some critics say that in trying to gain the upper hand over its foes within the state, the government is destroying the independence of Turkey's institutions (ft.com, UK, 26/2).

- ft.com, UK, 26/2, http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/83b3a3d2-9f05-11e3-a48e-00144feab7de.Authorised=false.html?_i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2F83b3a3d2-9f05-11e3-a48e-00144feab7de.html%3Fftcamp%3Dpublished_links%252Frss%252Fworld%252Ffeed%252F%252Fproduct%26siteedition%3Duk&siteedition=uk&ftcamp=published_links%2Frss%2Fworld%2Ffeed%2F%2Fproduct&_i_referer=#axzz2uUmDPnOr

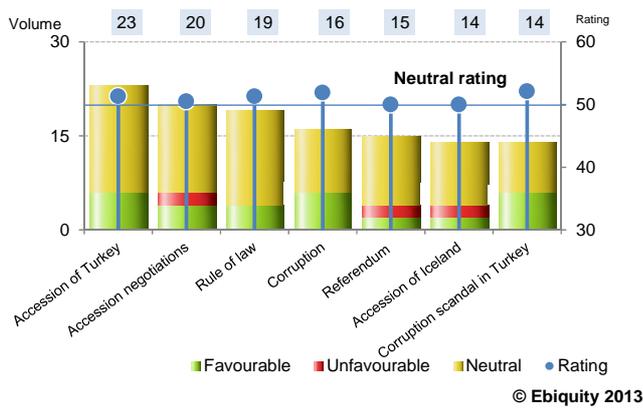
Kosovo heading for normalisation

Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi says that the north of the country is heading toward normalisation. He believes that the key to this is the order that he issued in 2011 for Police of Kosovo to take the border crossing points with Serbia under control and the strong support of USA and EU (balkaneu.com, EL, 26/2).

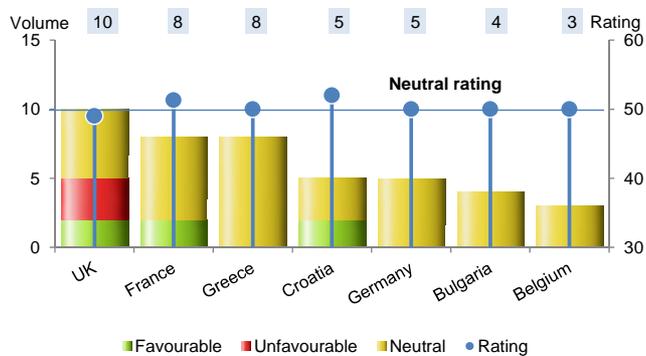
- balkaneu.com, EL, 26/2, <http://www.balkaneu.com/thaci-north-kosovo-heading-normalization/>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 48 items |
| Rating | 50.5 |
| Favourable % | 18.8% |
| Unfavourable % | 6.2% |
| Neutral % | 75% |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey) | 18 |
| Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey) | 13 |
| Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia) | 4 |
| Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia) | 3 |
| Sebastian Kurz (Foreign Minister, Austria) | 3 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 2 |
| Rosen Plevneliev (President of Bulgaria) | 2 |
| Renate Sommer (MEP) | 2 |

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