



Key Quotes

More than 80 percent of Icelanders want the government to ask them directly in a referendum before it breaks off European Union membership talks, a survey indicated on Friday. **"We are deceiving 28 nations in the EU membership talks when there is no whole-hearted intention behind them"**, Finance Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, leader of the centre-right Independence Party that rules in coalition with the Progressive Party, said (Reuters, UK, 28/2).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/28/uk-iceland-referendum-idUKBREA1R19V20140228>

Summary

Over 30,000 Icelanders want a referendum on EU membership

More than 15 per cent of voters in Iceland are demanding a referendum on whether the country should continue membership talks with the EU after the government abruptly broke off negotiations. Thorsteinn Pálsson, a former centre-right prime minister, described the move as Iceland's *"greatest political betrayal ever"*. By yesterday afternoon, about 37,400 people - or 15.5 per cent of the electorate - had signed a petition calling for a referendum to ask voters whether they want to complete or end EU talks. Many businesspeople and some on the centre left, see membership of the EU and Euro as a key route for Iceland to exit its financial crisis, under which it was forced to impose capital controls limiting the exchange of foreign currencies. The government and a large number of Icelanders, however, remain distrustful of the EU after bruising fights over fishing rights and financial compensation sought by the UK and Netherlands in the Icesave case (Financial-Times, UK, 28/2), *"Obviously, people care about this issue. We are optimistic, but the result was better than I dared to hope,"* said Jón Steindór Valdimarsson leader of Já Ísland (Yes, Iceland), a group of pro-European organizations who initiated this petition (romanalibera.ro, RO, 27/2).

- dnevnik.bg, BG, 27/2,

http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/razshirivane/2014/02/27/2250772_poveche_ot_30_000_islandci_iskat_referendum_zo/?ref=rss

- Financial-Times, UK, 28/2, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/05225136-9fbd-11e3-b6c7-00144feab7de.html#axzz2uafXvUJap>

- romanalibera.ro, RO, 27/2, <http://www.romanalibera.ro/actualitate/europa/peste-32-000-de-islandezi-cer-referendum-pentru-aderarea-la-ue-327312.html>

Power struggles in Turkey

In the Erdoğan decade, Turkey re-emerged as a regional power. Its economy grew at near-Chinese speed, spreading wealth and healthcare, schools and roads. The new AKP establishment, refined from the debris of two banned Islamist parties into a Muslim version of Christian Democracy, sidelined the secular elite's that had ruled as of right the republic created by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. There was no bloodshed, nor was it done by Marquess of Queensberry rules. The way the elite's, from the army to the tycoons, were elbowed aside has revealed the fragility of Turkey's institutions, calling into question the integrity of the rule of law. In a series of baroque conspiracy trials, the government allied with Gulenist investigators and magistrates used and, where necessary, abused the law to crush the generals and their allies. But once the army was neutered and Mr Erdoğan started setting limits to Gulenist ambitions to capture Turkey's institutions, this battering ram became a boomerang. The dirty tricksters turned on their masters - so much so that Mr Erdoğan is now calling on Kemalist and nationalist opposition leaders to talk about how some of their leaders were brought down by compromising sex tapes posted on the internet in the run-up to the last elections (Financial-Times, UK, 28/2).

- Financial-Times, UK, 28/2 [link not available]

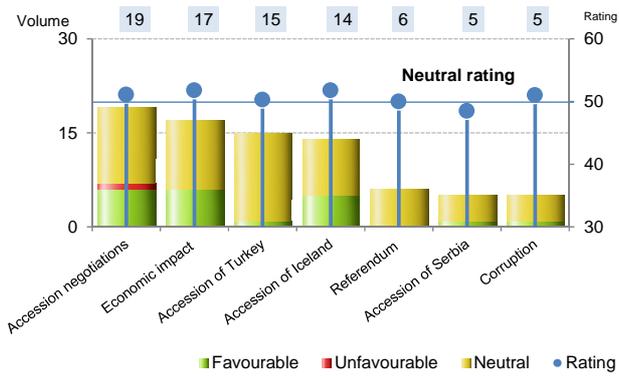
Comparing Ukraine with Serbia

In the Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko, just released from prison, told those gathered on Maidan that Ukraine will join the European Union, and that all problems will be solved. Ukrainians, before dreaming of such a future, should look a little closer at Serbia and its European path. After the revolution of 2000, Serbia's political class had promised that Serbia would integrate Europe in 2004. Today, in 2014, Serbia is still at the beginning of the path. Meanwhile, with the help of American and European *"friends"*, Yugoslavia was divided into two parts, and Serbia has lost 15% of its territory (alterinfo.net, FR, 27/2).

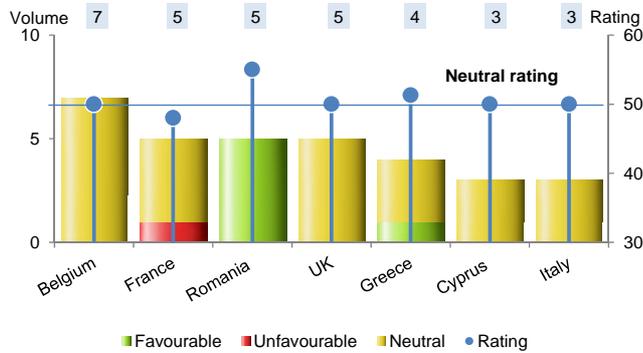
- alterinfo.net, FR, 27/2, http://www.alterinfo.net/Le-conseil-des-Serbes-aux-Ukrainiens_a100118.html

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	38 items
Rating	50.7
Favourable %	18.4%
Unfavourable %	2.6%
Neutral %	79%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	4
Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey)	4
Kristian Vigenin (Foreign Minister, Bulgaria)	3
Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson (Prime Minister, Iceland)	2
Renate Sommer (MEP)	2

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