



Key Quotes

Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides stated that Serbia **"will not have to recognise Kosovo's independence at the end of the EU accession talks."** **"As the things look now, Serbia will not be obliged to recognize Kosovo's independence because decisions in the EU are adopted by a consensus and we have five EU member countries (Spain, Romania, Slovakia, Greece and Cyprus) which do not recognize Kosovo's current status,"** Kasoulides said ([agerpres.ro](http://www1.agerpres.ro), RO, 3/3).

<http://www1.agerpres.ro/externe/2014/03/03/serbia-nu-va-fi-nevoita-sa-recunoasca-kosovo-pentru-a-adera-la-ue-seful-diplomatiei-cipriote--15-55-49>

Summary

Iceland, protest against the withdrawal of European Union candidacy (actualita.ilbloggatore.com, IT, 1/3)

An estimated 8,000 people gathered in front of Iceland's parliament on Saturday for another protest against the government's proposed withdrawal from European Union accession talks. The two ruling coalition parties voted in favour of stopping European Union membership talks earlier on 21 February (euobserver.com, BE, 3/3). *"I am protesting against the betrayal of election promises"* said one of the demonstrators, student Bajrki Guðmundsson, adding *"I am against EU membership, but I think that the last word should be given to people"* (Hospodarske-Noviny-Czech-Republic, CZ, 3/3). Iceland's application to the bloc has not yet been withdrawn due to the opposition's claim that there has not been enough time for debate in Parliament on the issue (novinite.com, BG, 1/3).

- actualita.ilbloggatore.com, IT, 1/3, <http://actualita.ilbloggatore.com/2014-03-01/islanda-la-piazza-contro-il-ritiro-della-candidatura-all%E2%80%99unione-europea/>
- euobserver.com, BE, 3/3, <http://euobserver.com/tickers/123326>
- Hospodarske-Noviny-Czech-Republic, CZ, 3/3, [link not available]
- [novinite.com](http://www.novinite.com), BG, 1/3, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=158597

Turkish parliament votes to shut schools run by Erdoğan rival (rp-online.de, DE, 1/3)

Turkey's parliament has voted to close private preparatory schools, many of which are a source of income and influence for an Islamic cleric accused by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of covertly seeking to topple him. Late on Friday, news channels reported that law-makers have set a deadline of September 1, 2015, to shut the schools (uk.reuters.com, UK, 1/3). Education is central to US-based Gülen's Hizmet, or Service, movement's mission. Their respected prep schools help spread influence across a nationwide network, and shutting them will deprive Hizmet of its chief source of financing. Followers of Gülen, who preaches respect for science, democracy and dialog with other faiths, have forged a powerful socio-religious community network. Gülen, who says he has no plans to form a political party, denies any involvement in the graft investigation. Erdoğan has said that abolishing the cram schools is part of a larger reform of an *"unhealthy"* educational system that ranks Turkey below the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development average in literacy, maths and science (cyprus-mail.com, CY, 1/3).

- rp-online.de, DE, 1/3, <http://www.rp-online.de/politik/ausland/tuerkei-ankara-will-schulen-des-erdogan-rivalen-quelen-schliessen-aid-1.4073616>
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 1/3, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/03/01/us-turkey-corruption-idUKBREA2005220140301>
- cyprus-mail.com, CY, 1/3, <http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/03/01/turkish-parliament-delivers-blow-to-schools-run-by-erdogan-rival/>

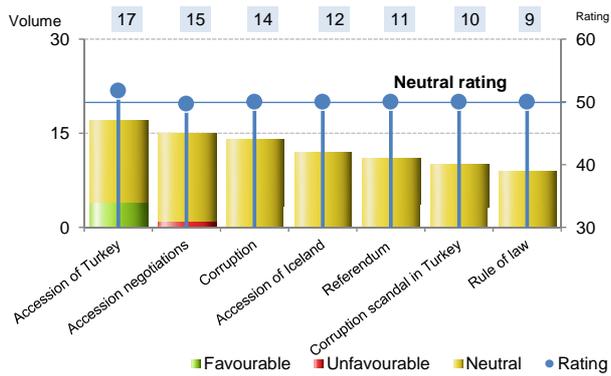
Talks with Serbia do not and cannot involve the sovereignty of the youngest state in the Balkans

"The talks with Serbia do not involve the status and sovereignty of the Republic of Kosovo. These are talks that aim the normalization of relations between the two countries. These are talks between two countries", the foreign minister of Kosovo, Enver Hoxhaj declared in a meeting that he had in Vienna with his Austrian counterpart, Sebastian Kurz (balkaneu.com, EL, 28/2)

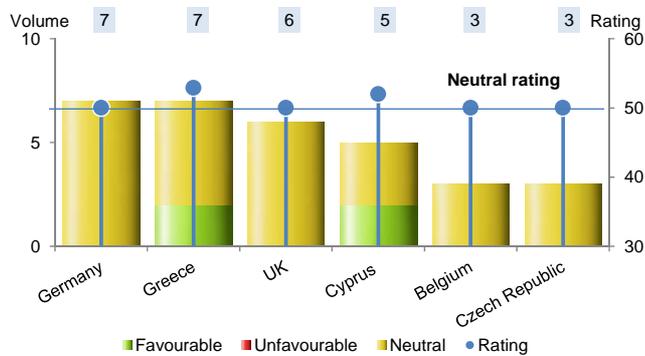
- balkaneu.com, EL, 28/2, <http://www.balkaneu.com/pristina-talks-serbia-involve-sovereignty-republic-kosovo/>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
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ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	41 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	9.8%
Unfavourable %	2.4%
Neutral %	87.8%

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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
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	3
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	3
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Bjarni Benediktsson (Finance Minister, Iceland)	2

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