



Key Quotes

"It would be a lot easier and nicer for me to slap Hashim Thaçi, rather than negotiate with him during the election campaign, which is what I told him in Brussels - wouldn't it be nice if we had a fight ahead of the elections," Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić said ([24sata.hr](http://www.24sata.hr), HR, 4/3).

<http://www.24sata.hr/svijet/dacic-lakse-bi-mi-bilo-thacija-osamariti-nego-pregovarati-356266>

Summary

The fight against corruption in Turkey

The European Commission has started an investigation into graft allegations at Turkey's Ministry for EU Affairs, a newspaper reported on Monday. Egemen Bağış was the minister in charge of the department when the alleged tender rigging and other irregularities took place. Bağış was forced to resign, along with three other ministers, when a massive corruption scandal erupted in December in Turkey. Leaked emails indicating Bağış was involved in graft became public in recent months, sparking the European probe into the alleged abuse of funds the EU gave to Turkey, according to Taraf newspaper (Ise.co.uk, UK, 3/3). On Tuesday, Turkish President Abdullah Gül ordered state auditors to assess the government's capacity to fight corruption, including in the construction sector. In a statement on his website, Gül also said he had instructed the State Supervisory Council to examine regulations governing the wiretapping of communications. His order also requires auditors to look at the process by which judges and prosecutors are chosen (uk.reuters.com, UK, 4/3). However Erdoğan's interventions in the justice system seem to have brought results, since the newly elected judges and prosecutors are starting to "cover up" the corruption scandals (balkaneu.com, EL, 3/3).

- Ise.co.uk, UK, 3/3, [http://www.ise.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=8hwe322c&headline=EU investigates corruption at Turkey's EU affairs ministry Report](http://www.ise.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=8hwe322c&headline=EU%20investigates%20corruption%20at%20Turkeys%20EU%20affairs%20ministry%20Report)
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 4/3, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/03/04/uk-turkey-corruption-idUKBREA230KV20140304>
- balkaneu.com, EL, 3/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/erdogan-covers-corruption-scandals/>

Turkish parliament votes democratisation measures

The Turkish parliament finalised a heavy scheduled plenary on Saturday before going to recess ahead of the local polls, adopting a "democratization package" that introduces the right to political campaigning in languages other than Turkish, Hürriyet Daily News reported. Parliament will be in recess until March 26 due to the looming local elections (focus-fen.net, BG, 3/3).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 3/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/03/03/328876/turkish-parliament-adopts-democracy-package-goes-to-recess.html>

Improving civil society in Serbia

The British Embassy in Serbia is issuing a call for proposals under its Conflict Prevention Programme 2013-2015. Her Majesty's Government, through its Conflict Prevention programme in Serbia, seeks to support the Serbian government and civil society in its effort to tackle the legacies of the past and to make the necessary institutional and societal reforms to prevent the recurrence of conflict. Following a recent consultation exercise on ethnic minority policy in Serbia, with a particular focus on South Serbia and Sandžak, proposals to address the following areas are welcome: Improvement of ethnic minority policy in Serbia, continuing development and capacity building of the National Minority Councils and activities which promote the better integration of ethnic minorities (gov.uk, UK, 4/3).

- gov.uk, UK, 4/3, <https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/serbia-call-for-proposals-ethnic-minorities-in-serbia-south-serbia-and-sandzak>

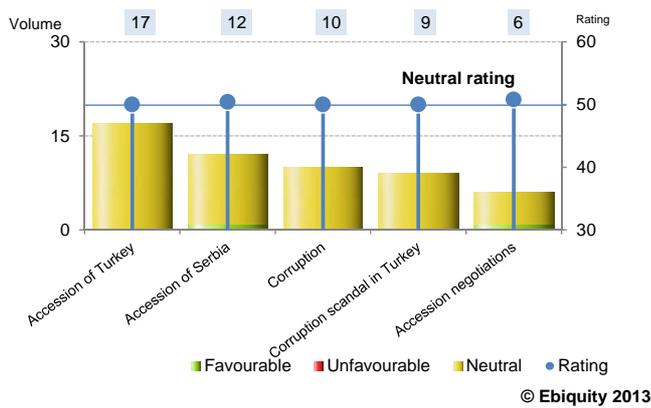
Troubles in Bosnia Herzegovina

The demands of the protesters at recent rallies in Bosnia and Herzegovina are legitimate, although the violent actions of a small minority are to be condemned, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina Valentin Inzko has told the STA. He is surprised that protests did not break out earlier given the situation (sta.si, SI, 4/3).

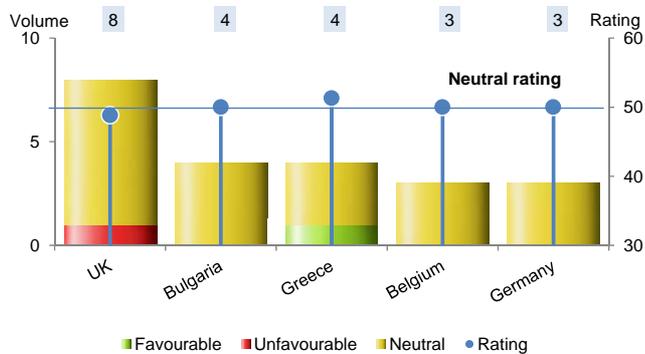
- sta.si, SI, 4/3, <http://www.sta.si/vest.php?s=a&id=1985585>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
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ELARG: Highlights
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| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 34 items |
| Rating | 50.0 |
| Favourable % | 5.9% |
| Unfavourable % | 2.9% |
| Neutral % | 91.2% |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|---|--------------------|
| Ahmet Davutoğlu (Foreign Minister, Turkey) | 6 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey) | 2 |
| Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia) | 2 |
| Ioannis Kasoulides (Foreign Minister, Cyprus) | 2 |
| Valentin Inzko (High Representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina) | 2 |
| Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey) | 2 |

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