



Key Quotes

EU suggests Iceland can wait and see on membership bid, Matthias Brinkmann, a German diplomat, mentioned during an interview with Icelandic public broadcaster RUV the **"precedent"** of Malta, which joined the EU in 2004, after putting its bid on hold while a Euro-sceptic government was in office. **"So in a way that is possible, but of course not for an unlimited period of time, that I think is evident,"** Brinkmann said. **"The people in Brussels are politicians and they understand how a democratic country works, that there can be changes of government"** ([eubusiness.com](http://www.eubusiness.com), UK, 5/3).

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/iceland-politics.u7t/>

The European Commission has launched an investigation into allegations that a Turkish government agency misused EU funds. The probe follows reports in Turkish media of tender-rigging and illegal recruitment at the Centre for EU Education and Youth Programmes in Ankara under former EU minister Egemen Bağış. **"The audit follows allegations of irregularities relating to a lack of transparency for staff recruitment and a lack of compliance with EU and national rules for procurement by the national agency,"** the Commission's education spokesman Dennis Abbott said (Novinar.net, BG, 5/3).

http://www.novinar.net/news/es-zapochva-koruptcionno-razsledvane-v-turska-agentciia_NDU3NjszMw==.html

Summary

Reform for Serbia

Serbian Minister without portfolio responsible for European integration, Branko Ružić, and the Director for Western Balkans at the European Commission's Directorate General for Enlargement, Jean-Eric Paquet, agreed that Serbia had made a considerable progress in reforms. Ružić said that the next phase in the negotiating process with the EU would be much more demanding and that citizens would expect much faster progress, implementation of the regulations adopted and realisation of their rights, as well as the strengthening of institutions in line with European norms ([balkans.com](http://www.balkans.com), UK, 4/3). The Board for Stabilization and Association said Serbia needs to accelerate reforms in the field of the rule of law and the judiciary and to continue the battle against crime and corruption. As regards to the economy, further effort is necessary in the area of fiscal control and faster structural reforms. The board believes that the restructuring of public companies must be carried on immediately after the elections, in order to minimise the presence of the state in the economy ([balkans.com](http://www.balkans.com), UK, 5/3).

- [balkans.com](http://www.balkans.com), UK, 4/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=189948>
- [balkans.com](http://www.balkans.com), UK, 5/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=190025>

Kosovo to create national army of 5,000 soldiers

 (uk.reuters.com, UK, 4/3)

Kosovo has said it has established its own armed forces, replacing a lightly armed policing organization founded four years ago. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi also announced the Ministry of Security has been renamed the Defence Ministry. Kosovo's armed forces will include 5,000 soldiers and 3,000 reservists. The Kosovo Security Force was 2,500-strong and was overseen by a NATO-led peacekeeping mission on the ground since the end of the Kosovo war in 1999. Thaçi said the move was **"in the interests of all countries in the region, without exceptions"** ([rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org), CZ, 4/2). The Serbian Prime Minister countered that this was contrary to Brussels agreement on normalization of the relations between Belgrade and Pristina. **"If they form such a Kosovo army we will demand guarantees from NATO and KFOR that the troops will not be deployed in the north of Kosovo without the permission of KFOR"**, Dačić said. The Prime Minister said that Serbia has already acquired such guarantees from NATO ([balkaneu.com](http://www.balkaneu.com), EL, 4/3).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 4/3, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/03/04/uk-kosovo-army-idUKBREA231E620140304>
- [rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org), CZ, 4/2, <http://www.rferl.org/content/pristina-establishes-armed-forces/25285292.html>
- [balkaneu.com](http://www.balkaneu.com), EL, 4/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/dacic-slapped-thaci/>

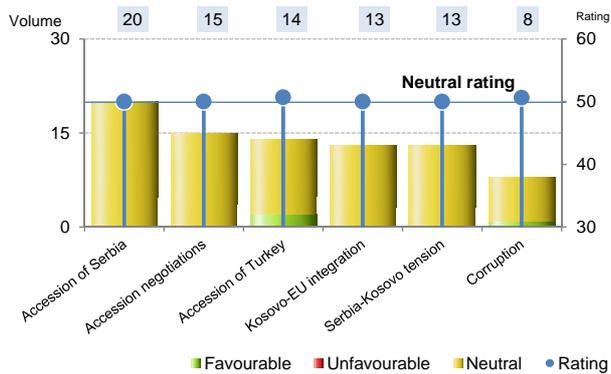
The judiciary in Turkey

The foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament concluded on 3 March that developments in Turkey over the past year are a cause of concern and put into doubt the country's capacity to fulfil its EU membership obligations. The government of Turkey, has taken a number of steps that are **"not in line with the Copenhagen criteria"**, said Ria Oomen Ruyten, the EU Parliament's rapporteur on the country after the vote. The Dutch MEP said there was **"no more independence of the judiciary"** in Turkey since the Minister of Justice can now give orders to judges and prosecutors ([euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com), FR, 4/3).

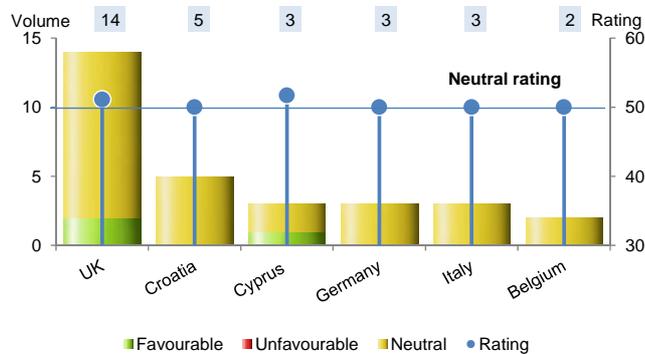
- [euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com), FR, 4/3, <http://www.euractiv.com/enlargement/meps-call-eu-pressure-turkey-dia-news-533897>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	35 items
Rating	50.7
Favourable %	11.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	88.6%

© Ebiquity 2014

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	10
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	5
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	2
Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs Commissioner, EC)	2
Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey)	2
David McAllister (Politician, Germany)	2

© Ebiquity 2014

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.