



## Key Quotes

Albania is capable of tackling its EU integration challenges, Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said during a visit to Tirana on March 6 for another round of the High Level Dialogue on the Key Priorities. *"I firmly believe that Albania's future is within the EU and I remain strongly convinced of Albania's capacity to tackle its EU integration challenges. The European Commission and I will continue helping Albania to move towards that goal,"* Füle said ([neurope.eu](http://www.neurope.eu), BE, 6/3).

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/fule-albanias-future-eu>

## Summary

### Turkish response to EP resolution

In a resolution passed on March 3, MEPs expressed deep concern at recent developments in Turkey concerning allegations of high-level corruption and stressed that constitutional reform must remain the top priority for modernization and democratization. In response Turkey's EU Minister, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, told reporters on March 4 that the European Parliament's assessments on Turkey *"should be balanced and constructive"* but welcomed the resolution's call for negotiation talks to be accelerated. *"Certainly there are points that we don't agree on, but in general we find it positive that the report stresses the opening of new negotiation chapters and calls for talks to be accelerated. We always take notice of constructive criticism"* he said. The MEPs said in the resolution that the Council should make efforts toward opening negotiation chapters 23 and 24, on the judiciary and fundamental rights and on justice and home affairs (hri.org, CY, 5/3).

- hri.org, CY, 5/3, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2014/14-03-05.tcpr.html>

### Turkish elections and Erdoğan's future

On Wednesday, Turkish Premier Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, whose government has been shaken by a wave of corruption scandals, said that he is ready to leave politics if his Islamic AKP party do not come first in administrative elections on March 30. Surveys say support for AKP is dropping from the 50% backing obtained in national elections four years ago. According to polls, AKP would garner between 36% and 40% of the vote, still well above the 30% attributed to the second main CHP party of Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu (ansa.it, IT, 5/3).

- ansa.it, IT, 5/3, [http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/03/05/Turkey-Erdogan-ready-leave-politics-AKP-doesn-win\\_10182598.html](http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/03/05/Turkey-Erdogan-ready-leave-politics-AKP-doesn-win_10182598.html)

### Serbian response to new Kosovo Defence Force

On Wednesday, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić called an extraordinary government session asking the Minister for Kosovo, Aleksandar Vulin, to submit a report on announced plans for the formation of Kosovo armed forces, Belgrade media reported. Earlier in the day Vučić said that he would discuss the matter with the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. *"I will relay our position to Ms Ashton as soon as we meet. Many things that are happening are not in line with the agreement"* Vučić told reporters (dalje.com, HR, 6/3). Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said that one of the tasks of the new armed forces will be to preserve the territorial sovereignty of Kosovo (ansamed.info, IT, 5/3).

- dalje.com, HR, 6/3, <http://dalje.com/en-world/serbian-deputy-pm-asks-for-report-on-formation-of-kosovo-army/501804>
- ansamed.info, IT, 5/3, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/kosovo/2014/03/05/Kosovo-new-armed-forces-harsh-reaction-Belgrade\\_10183245.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/kosovo/2014/03/05/Kosovo-new-armed-forces-harsh-reaction-Belgrade_10183245.html)

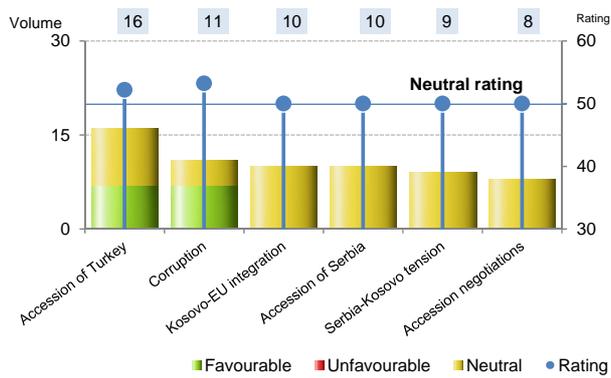
### Observer status for candidate countries

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey have launched an initiative for attendance at European Council summits and EU meetings in the capacity of observers, MIA reports from Brussels. The informal initiative suggests heads of states and governments and foreign ministers of the candidate states should be able to attend the most important Union meetings in order to witness the EU functioning and prepare in the best possible way for future debates as members (balkans.com, UK, 6/3).

- balkans.com, UK, 6/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniqueid=190060>

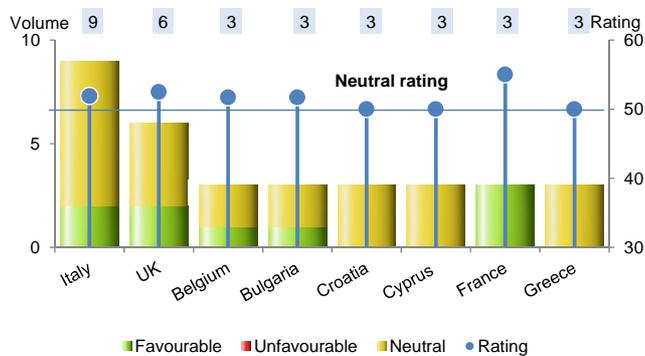
## Charts

**ELARG: Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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**ELARG: Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



**ELARG: Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	36 items
Rating	51.4
Favourable %	25%
Unfavourable %	0%
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)	10
Egemen Bağış (former EU Minister, Turkey)	10
Dennis Abbott (Spokesperson for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, EC)	6
Giorgio Napolitano (President, Italy)	5
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
Bujar Nishani (President, Albania)	3

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