



## Key Quotes

EC official: **"EU ready to help Bosnia but more political will is necessary"**. Christian Danielsson, Director-General in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement, has said that although Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently lagging behind other countries in the process of integration into the European Union, it can still catch up with other aspirants provided that there is political will (dalje.com, HR, 17/3).

<http://dalje.com/en-world/ec-official--eu-ready-to-help-bosnia-but-more-political-will-is-necessary/503015>

## Summary

**Serbia's centre-right claims majority unseen since Milosevic** (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 16/3)

Progressive party leader Aleksandar Vučić, a former ultra-nationalist and once feared Milošević-era minister who converted to the pro-EU cause in 2008, is likely to become prime minister and could even govern alone. The Progressive Party (SNS) forced the snap election after just 18 months in coalition government, saying it needed a stronger mandate to overhaul Serbia's shaky finances. The party's domination owes much to Vučić's personal popularity as the face of a popular anti-crime crusade that saw Balkan retail tycoon Miroslav Mišković put on trial. The campaign has struck a chord with many Serbs, angry at decades of deep-rooted graft. Critics, however, are unnerved at the power amassed by a man who, up until five years ago, was a virulent anti-Western disciple of the Greater Serbia ideology that fuelled the wars of Yugoslavia's bloody demise in the 1990s (The Scotsman, UK, 17/3). Vučić said he had called early elections to *"get the strongest possible support to transform Serbia into a modern European state"* (Curentul, RO, 17/3), adding *"I expect reforms, job creation and the fight against corruption to be the main issues for us after the election"* (Standaard, BE, 17/3).

- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 16/3, [link not available]
- The Scotsman, UK, 17/3, [link not available]
- Curentul, RO, 17/3, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140317/mi/item\\_191392511.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140317/mi/item_191392511.pdf)
- Standaard, BE, 17/3, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140317/mi/item\\_191398430.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140317/mi/item_191398430.pdf)

### Russian influence in BiH

Vladimir Putin is using the Ukrainian crisis as cover to launch a power grab in Bosnia and Herzegovina that could lead to the disintegration of the Balkan state and even risks war, Lord Ashdown has warned. The move appears to be part of a flexing of Kremlin muscles across eastern Europe that is alarming Russia's neighbours. Ashdown, the international community's high representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2002 to 2006, will use a speech in Sarajevo, the capital, on Tuesday to deliver a stark warning that western neglect has allowed the country to turn into a *"failed state"*, vulnerable to meddling from the Kremlin. *"That is a direct strike at the sovereignty of Bosnia and can only have the effect of encouraging the Serbs towards secession and the break-up of the Bosnian state"*, Ashdown said last week. His comments follow a visit to Moscow last week by Milorad Dodik, prime minister of the Serb Republic (sic), part of Bosnia and Herzegovina carved out during the ethnic cleansing of the 1990s war. Ashdown said Putin had told Dodik that, instead of participating in a proposed IMF loan to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Serbs should borrow money from Moscow (Sunday-Times, UK, 16/3).

- Sunday-Times, UK, 16/3, [link not available]

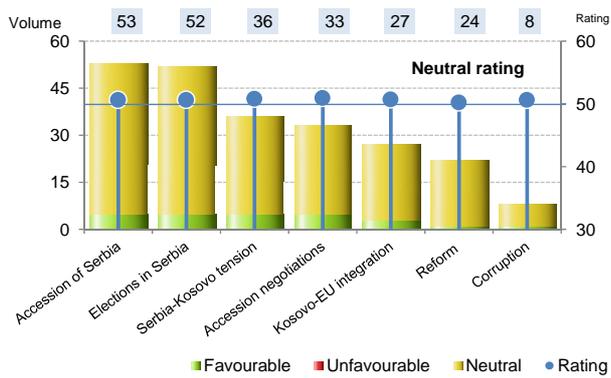
### Observers at Turkish elections

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced that EU observers could come to the local elections, which will be held on March 30, NTV reported. Mr Erdoğan answered questions posed by journalists concerning the guaranteeing of security at the event (focus-fen.net, BG, 15/3).

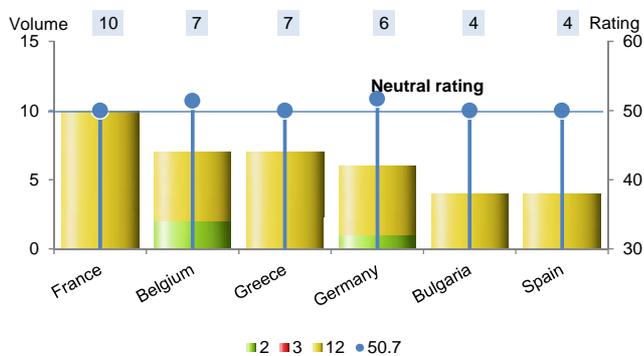
- focus-fen.net, BG, 15/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/03/15/330004/no-obstacles-before-eu-observers-coming-to-local-elections-in-turkey-pm.html>

## Charts

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



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



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

Volume	61 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	8.2%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	91.8%

© Ebiquity 2014

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	49
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	25
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	2
Ioannis Kasoulides (Foreign Minister, Cyprus)	2
Dervis Eroğlu (Turkish Cypriot leader)	1
Evangelos Venizelos (Foreign Minister, Greece)	1
David Cameron (Prime Minister, UK)	1

© Ebiquity 2014

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