



Key Quotes

Turkey will bring up the customs union deal for re-negotiation with the European Union by June, Turkey's Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said. **"By June, we're going to re-open for negotiation the Customs Union Agreement, to which no sovereign independent state should agree"**, Zeybekci said at a meeting with Turkish businesspeople, quoted by Hurriyet Daily News (novinite.com, BG, 24/3).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/159195/Turkey+To+Re-Negotiate+Customs+Union+With+EU>

Summary

Reaction to Turkey's Twitter ban

Against the backdrop of Turkey being a NATO member and seeking accession to the EU, an opinion piece asks why there is no protest by the EU against Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for attacking Twitter. When blocking the service for 12 million users in Turkey, the government provided only spurious arguments and Mr Erdoğan stated he was not interested in what the international community has to say about this. EP President Martin Schulz simply noted that the blockade means an extra burden for the accession negotiations as freedom of expression and constitutionality are non-negotiable (Handelsblatt, DE, 24/3). However Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, has reminded Ankara that the freedom of expression is the main EU principle, while European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes characterised the move of Mr Erdoğan's government as *"pointless and cowardly"* (Ethnos, FR, 24/3). In an interview with the BBC, Chatham House Turkish expert, Fadi Hakura said *"I don't think the corruption allegations and the government attempts to suppress the debate will have a major impact on the Prime Minister's popularity"* (BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 21/3).

- Handelsblatt, DE, 24/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140324/mi/item_192321170.pdf
- Ethnos, FR, 24/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140322/mi/item_192166965.pdf
- BBC-RADIO-4, UK, 21/3, <http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140321/mi/6000-536684-001.mp3>

Serbia's balancing act

Serbia's position on the crisis in Ukraine will be in line with Serbia's European path and its friendship with Russia, the Prime Minister and leader of the Socialist Party of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, said on Sunday. *"Russia is traditionally a friend of Serbia and Serbia is on the path to its integration with the EU, so the position must be balanced and in our interest"*, said Dačić after his party's presidency held a meeting. Dačić said that many countries that *"are now lecturing Serbia"* on Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty had been the first to support Kosovo's independence. In a comment on the Ukrainian crisis, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said on Saturday that Belgrade *"cannot be lectured to by those who have disregarded Serbia's territorial integrity"* (dalje.com, HR, 23/3) and added that Serbia cannot have a hostile attitude towards Russia (24sata.hr, HR, 22/3).

- dalje.com, HR, 23/3, <http://dalje.com/en-world/dacic-says-serbia-to-balance-between-russia-and-eu-on-ukraine/503640>
- 24sata.hr, HR, 22/3, <http://www.24sata.hr/svijet/vucic-srbija-nikako-nece-imati-neprijateljski-stav-prema-rusiji-358869>

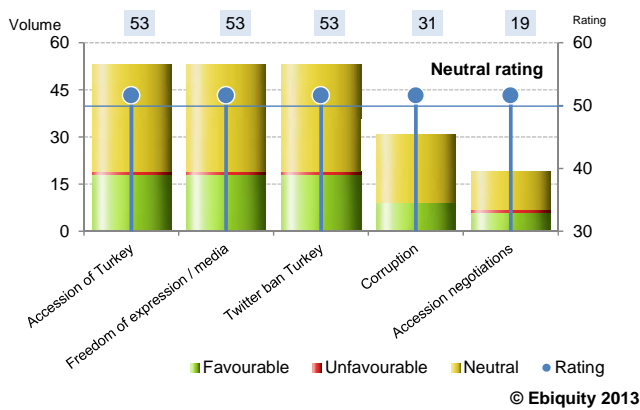
New EU strategy for BiH

European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle said the EU's new strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina includes three initiatives: boosting economic reforms, accelerating the implementation of approved EU-funded projects worth EUR 350 million, as well as promoting justice and anti-corruption reforms (Duma, BG, 24/3). Adding that *"constitutional changes will be imperative during the negotiation and accession process"* (Sega, BG, 24/3).

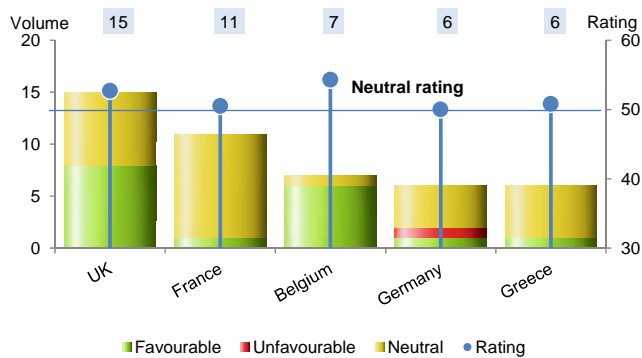
- Duma, BG, 24/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140324/mi/item_192330262.pdf
- Sega, BG, 24/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140324/mi/item_192330455.pdf

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	65 items
Rating	51.7
Favourable %	32.3%
Unfavourable %	1.5%
Neutral %	66.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	53
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	27
Neelie Kroes (Digital Media Commissioner, EC)	23
Abdullah Gül (President, Turkey)	16
Martin Schultz (President, European Parliament)	4
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	4
Angerla Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	4

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