



### Key Quotes

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will be bolstered by his party's local election win, but EU officials warned on Monday that he must focus on democratic reforms if Ankara is to achieve closer ties with Brussels. European Commission spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic said: **"Turkey as a candidate country now needs to move forward in the accession and negotiations and work that is needed in this respect as well as the work that needs to be done in the European agenda"** ([euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com), BE, 31/3)  
<http://www.euronews.com/2014/03/31/backsliding-on-democracy-will-hurt-turkey-s-eu-ambitions-officials-say/>

### Summary

**The most chaotic elections in Turkey's history set the start of the decisive fight for power** (Ziarul-Financiar, RO, 31/3)

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's Prime Minister, declared victory in national polls on Sunday night, suggesting an imminent crackdown on foes he blames for a corruption probe and a series of leaks, and hinting that he might be ready to stand for the country's presidency. Mr Erdoğan's AK party chalked up more than 45 per cent of counted votes in the countrywide local elections, as of midnight on Sunday, with its nearest rival, the Republican Peoples party, at less than 30 per cent. *"I thank God for this great victory and significant result,"* Mr Erdoğan told a large crowd in Ankara. *"We gave a message to the world . . . You cannot cross Turkey, we will not budge"* ([ft.com](http://www.ft.com), UK, 31/3).

- Ziarul-Financiar, RO, 31/3, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140331/mi/item\\_193268243.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140331/mi/item_193268243.pdf)
- [ft.com](http://www.ft.com), UK, 31/3, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/da760d76-b806-11e3-af5e-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2xVmglt3h>

#### Freedom of expression in Turkey

Turkey's elections may ironically have dealt a blow to democracy; Recep Tayyip Erdoğan may use this result to justify clampdowns on press freedom and protests in 'defence of national security'. The results of Turkey's nationwide municipal elections amount to a remarkable personal victory for the country's long-serving Prime Minister, Erdoğan. But the outcome will be seen by his opponents as a significant defeat for Turkish democracy and a worrying omen for a future of increasing authoritarianism. The hostility towards Erdoğan, especially among young, urban Turks and the secular middle class, has many elements: his perceived illiberalism, his attempts to intimidate journalists and newspaper editors, the mass jailing of opponents in the military and elsewhere, his neo-Islamism and his efforts to roll back Atatürk's secular state, and alleged corruption in government ranks ([theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com), UK, 31/3).

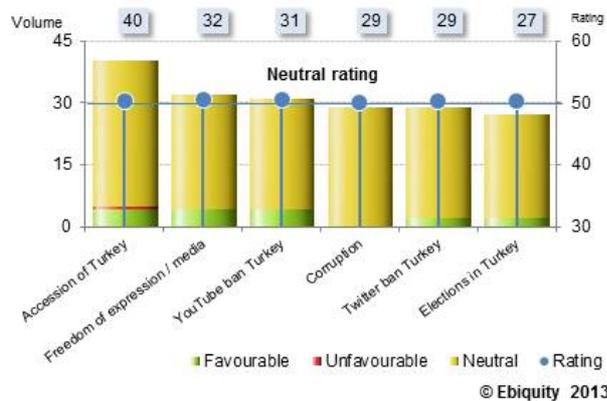
- [theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com), UK, 31/3, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/31/turkey-election-blow-democracy-ironic-erdogan>

#### Russian warnings to Serbia

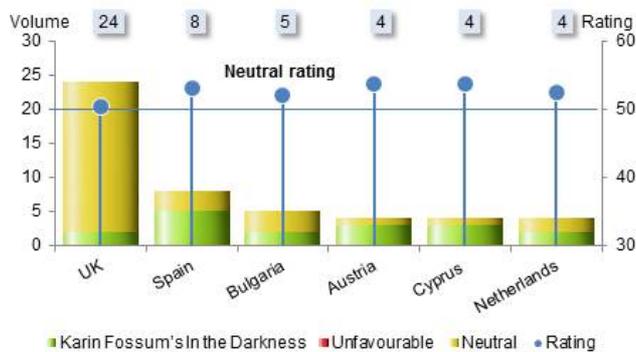
Russian President Vladimir Putin has already warned Belgrade that if it joins the western sanctions against Russia, Serbia will need to immediately pay off its debt for Russian gas, which is at the moment around EUR 1 billion. Moscow may also ask for compensation for the delay in the South Stream energy project and suspend the Free Trade Agreement with Serbia as a final measure. According to Nase Novinje daily Moscow has sent the warning to the current Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and to the winner of the elections and future Prime Minister Alexander Vučić, on the eve of their departure for Brussels ([focus-fen.net](http://focus-fen.net), BG, 30/3).

## Charts

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



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



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

Volume	54 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	9.3%
Unfavourable %	3.7%
Neutral %	87.0%

© Ebiqity 2014

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	32
Neelie Kroes (Digital Media Commissioner, EC)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
William Hague (Foreign Minister, UK)	5
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	3
János Martonyi (Foreign Minister, Hungary)	3
Sebastian Kurz (Foreign Minister, Austria)	3

© Ebiqity 2014

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