



Key Quotes

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton welcomes Kosovo Assembly's vote on EULEX. **"I welcome today's vote by the Kosovo Assembly, which supports the transitioning of EULEX's mandate and confirms the commitment to establish a specialist Court to adjudicate over the 2011 Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly report on legations"**. She added: **"The decision taken today by the members of the Assembly will strengthen the rule of law and improve the credibility of its international image. By taking such a decision, the leaders of Kosovo have opted for a better, European future for Kosovo and its citizens. The EU will continue to be a strong partner to Kosovo on its European path"** ([neurope.eu](http://www.neurope.eu), BE, 24/4)

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/aston-welcomes-kosovo-assemblys-vote-eulex>

Summary

Turkey's Erdoğan offers condolences for 1915 Armenia killings (cyprus-mail.com, CY, 23/4)

Turkey's prime minister offered his condolences on Wednesday over the massacre of Armenians during World War I, the country's most significant overture yet over the deeply divisive episode. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's statement, on the eve of the 99th anniversary of the start of mass deportations of Armenians in 1915, is the first such overt comment by a Turkish leader over the killings. He acknowledged that the events of 1915 had *"inhumane consequences"* but also said it was *"inadmissible"* for them to be used as an excuse today for hostility against Turkey. *"The incidents of the First World War are our shared pain,"* said Erdoğan in what Turkish media described as an unexpected statement that was issued in several languages, including Armenian (uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 23/4). French politician, Valérie Boyer, considers that *"Turkey needs to go further in recognizing the genocide"*. She added that *"the European Union should also address the question"* (metronews.fr, FR, 23/4).

- cyprus-mail.com, CY, 23/4, [http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/04/23/turkeys-erdogan-offers-condolences-for-1915-armenia-killings/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cyprusmailnews+\(Cyprus+Mail\)](http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/04/23/turkeys-erdogan-offers-condolences-for-1915-armenia-killings/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cyprusmailnews+(Cyprus+Mail))
- uk.news.yahoo.com, UK, 23/4, <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/turkish-pm-offers-condolences-over-mass-wwi-killings-111248933.html#rpGHpHl>
- metronews.fr, FR, 23/4, <http://www.metronews.fr/info/genocide-armenien-la-turquie-fait-un-geste/mndw!bROXyEu7riuJQ/>

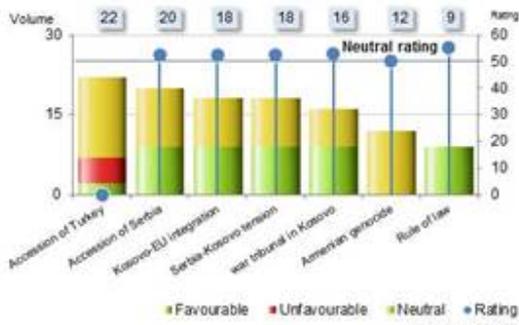
Kosovo paves way for inquiry into war crimes

Officials in Kosovo have now cleared the way for the creation of a European Union-backed court to investigate crimes committed by ethnic Albanian rebels during the country's 1998-99 war of independence from Serbia. The move follows years of diplomatic pressure by the EU and US on Kosovo to open a state inquiry into the killings. Alleged crimes include the killing of 400 civilians, chiefly Serbs, to harvest and sell their organs on the black market. The war crimes court, to be headquartered in Kosovo but conducting its work in the Netherlands, will be staffed by international judges and prosecutors. Hashim Thaçi, Kosovo's prime minister and the wartime rebel commander who has been linked in a 2010 EU report to the illegal trafficking of organs, told lawmakers to back a bill that would permit the court's creation (Scotsman, UK, 24/4).

- Scotsman, UK, 24/4, [link not available]

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating

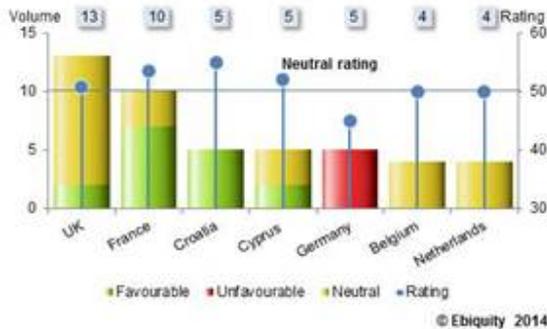


ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	50 items
Rating	51.1
Favourable %	32%
Unfavourable %	10%
Neutral %	58%

© Ebiquity 2014

ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	12
Hashim Thaçi (Prime Minister, Kosovo)	11
Samuel Zbogar (EU representative in Kosovo)	7
Andreas Scheuer (Politician, Germany)	5
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	2
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	2
Herman Van Rompuy (President, European Council)	2
Nicos Anastasiades (President, Cyprus)	2

© Ebiquity 2014

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