



Key Quotes

Catherine Ashton assured Serbian officials that Serbia would not be pressured to choose between Russia and the EU. **"We're not asking you to be against your historical, economic and any other partnership with Russia. Be sure that we see Serbia as part of the European family,"** Ashton said ([philenews.com](http://www.philenews.com), CY, 28/4)

<http://www.philenews.com/el-gr/eidiseis-kosmos/47/196776/kathrin-aston-den-piezoume-ti-servia-na-epilexei-metaxy-ee-kai-rosias>

The Greek President of Parliament, Vangelis Meimarakis: **"Greece will support Albania's European candidacy in June"** ([tovima.gr](http://www.tovima.gr), GR, 28/4)

<http://www.tovima.gr/en/article/?aid=590373>

Summary

Social Democrats refuse to recognise election results in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

SDSM leader Zoran Zaev accused the incumbent Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski and his party of *"abusing the entire state system"*, saying there were *"threats and blackmail and massive buying of voters"* in the recent elections. A few minutes after the polls closed, Zaev told reporters in Skopje *"I'm here to say that SDSM and our opposition coalition will not recognise the election process, neither the presidential nor the parliamentary"*. Gruevski, 43, and his party dismissed the opposition allegations as an attempt to manipulate public opinion (focus-fen.net, BG, 28/4).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 28/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/04/28/334529/macedonias-conservatives-re-elected-opposition-condemns-vote.html>

Serbia's New Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić Focusing on Economy Overhaul and EU Membership

Aleksandar Vučić, leader of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) and former Serbian deputy Prime Minister, was officially appointed Prime Minister by President Tomislav Nikolić following a landslide victory for the SNS in the March parliamentary elections. The incoming government has committed itself to an agenda of critical reforms focused on bolstering the economy, job creation and the continual fight against corruption. The Government, which was sworn in on 27 April, will also continue the strong progress towards European Union accession after talks formally opened in January 2014. Serbia aims to become a full EU member by 2020. *"We have the strongest mandate for reform from the Serbian people in years and this is a fantastic opportunity to build a better future because the most important partnership is between the people and the government,"* said Vučić (ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 28/4).

- ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 28/4, <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/serbias-new-prime-minister-aleksandar-vucic-focusing-economy-overhaul-eu-membership-1446327>

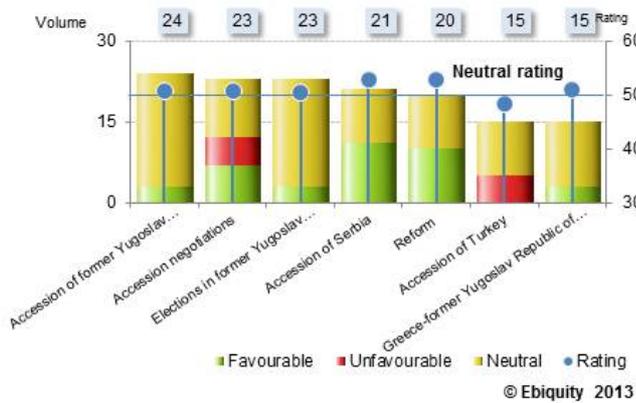
The rule of law and fundamental rights will be at the heart of the four-day trip

German President Joachim Gauck will address issues such as the rule-of-law and freedom of speech during his visit to Turkey. But the trip is unlikely to attract much media attention in the country. The central problem that Ankara currently has with German politics is the perennial question of its potential European Union membership. *"The CDU has positioned itself clearly against Turkey's full membership in the EU,"* said Emre Gönen, a political scientist at Istanbul's Bilgi University adding *"Germany has to decide whether Turkey is to become a part of the EU - with all the attendant rights and responsibilities - or not."* (dw.de, DE, 28/4). We will not accept a Turkish EU course *'à la carte'*, House President Yiannakis Omirou has said addressing an event organised in Greece. Omirou noted that Turkey's European course requires compliance with European values and the EU *acquis communautaire* as well as fulfilment of its responsibilities towards the Republic of Cyprus, which however Ankara refuses to meet (famaqusta-gazette.com, CY, 28/4). European Parliament President, Martin Schulz, also commented earlier that the chances of Turkey acceding into the European Union have declined massively and that he was *"sceptical regarding EU enlargement. We are now in a phase of EU consolidation"* (finanznachrichten.de, DE, 26/4).

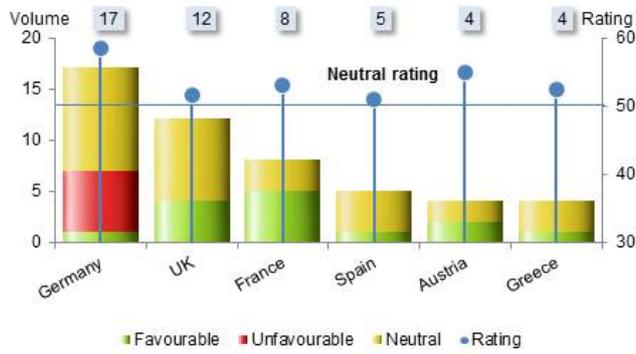
- dw.de, DE, 28/4, <http://www.dw.de/gauck-focussing-on-freedom-in-turkey/a-17593023>
- famaqusta-gazette.com, CY, 28/4, <http://famaqusta-gazette.com/we-will-not-accept-a-turkish-eu-course-a-la-carte-house-president-says-p23319-69.htm>
- finanznachrichten.de, DE, 26/4, <http://www.finanznachrichten.de/nachrichten-2014-04/30096502-darmstaedter-echo-schulz-sieht-kaum-chancen-fuer-eu-beitritt-der-tuerkei-skepsis-bei-erweiterung-007.htm>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	64 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	23.4%
Unfavourable %	9.4%
Neutral %	67.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Gjorge Ivanov (President, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	23
Nikola Gruevski (Prime Minister, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	22
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	19
Ivica Dačić (Foreign Minister, Serbia)	14
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	11
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	9
Stevo Pendarovski (Politician, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	8

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