



Key Quotes

Asked whether Turkey's aspiration to become a full member of the European Union could be realized, German President Joachim Gauck expressed his satisfaction at hearing Turkish President Abdullah Gül mentioning Turkey's absolute commitment to the EU and its values. European countries have not been able to agree on Turkish accession to the EU, he said, adding that they did not know yet whether Turkey would one day join the club. **"But our approach toward Turkey is positive. Various political powers have different views about the timing [of Turkish accession]. There is some hesitancy about a quick membership. But although they differ about its timing, they are all exerting efforts for the continuation of the process."** ([hri.org](http://www.hri.org), CY, 29/4)

<http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2014/14-04-29.tcpr.html>

Summary

Serbia promises a wave of reforms

The EU's chief diplomat Catherine Ashton has offered full support to Serbia's newly elected prime minister with his ambitious programme of economic reforms ([Les Echos](http://www.lesechos.com), FR, 29/4). Aleksandar Vučić, whose cabinet took office on Sunday, has promised a total overhaul of the country's economy, as well as pursuing membership of the European Union. He has pledged to make cuts to the public sector, formulate a budget revision and implement the privatisation of state-run companies, coupled with a boost to the private sector. The EU opened accession talks with Serbia this year, after Belgrade agreed to normalise ties with Kosovo ([euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com), BE, 29/4).

- Les Echos, FR, 29/4 no link available
- euronews.com, BE, 29/4, <http://www.euronews.com/2014/04/29/ashton-backs-serbia-s-new-pm-in-his-bid-to-accelerate-eu-membership/>

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia elections "efficient and orderly"

OSCE observers say the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's disputed parliamentary and presidential elections were "efficient and orderly". However, the OSCE observers did say they had noted shortcomings during campaigning including the blurring of state and party activities, biased media coverage in favour of the ruling party, and reports of voter intimidation. The opposition SDSM has said the election was neither fair nor democratic and it will not accept its result. ([rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org), CZ, 28/4). The spokesperson of Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle called on the political leaders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to assume their responsibilities. The spokesperson characterised the post-election state of the county as unfortunate, expressing a deep disappointment over the electoral process and SDSM leader Zoran Zaev's decision not to recognise the results of the general election ([Rizospastis](http://www.rizospastis.com), GR, 29/4). The outlook for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is uncertain. For many years its neighbour Greece has been blocking EU accession. For Athens the name, which resembles the Greek province Macedonia is "a thorn in its side" ([Handelsblatt](http://www.handelsblatt.com), DE, 29/4).

- rferl.org, CZ, 28/4, <http://www.rferl.org/content/osce-says-macedonia-elections-efficient-orderly/25365650.html>
- Rizospastis, GR, 29/4, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140429/mi/item_196926534.pdf
- Handelsblatt, DE, 29/4, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140429/mi/item_196904110.pdf

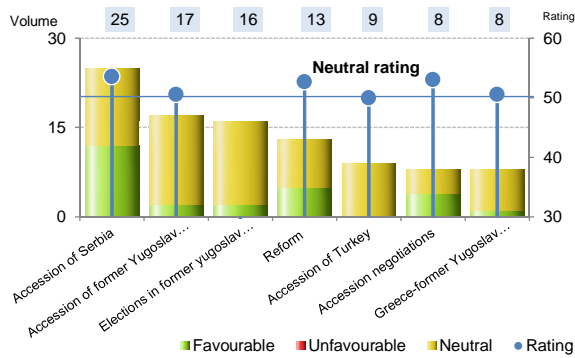
Italy supports Bosnian citizens' demands for jobs and a future within the European Union

Italian Foreign Undersecretary Benedetto Della Vedova said in the Bosnian capital "Europe has heard the call of Bosnian citizens, who want more employment, more equality, and less corruption". Della Vedova's remarks came after a meeting with Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency Chairman Bakir Izetbegović and representatives of the other two members of the tripartite leadership. "It is now up to Bosnian leaders to respond to these demands. Also, 85% of Bosnians want a European future, and Italy is fully committed to supporting the new EU agenda of economic and social reforms", Della Vedova added ([ansamed.info](http://www.ansamed.info), IT, 28/4).

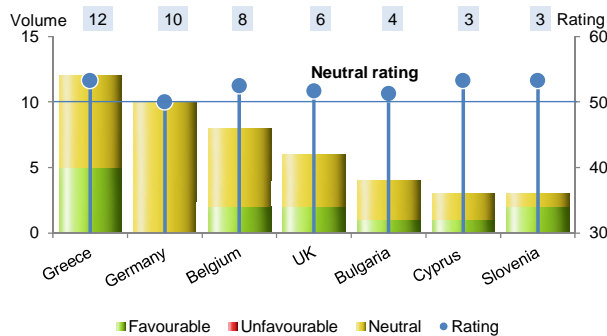
- ansamed.info, IT, 28/4, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/04/28/italy-bosnia-we-must-answer-to-citizens-says-della-vedova_aafc579d-aefa-46f3-b722-c9e92597d36f.html

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	55 items
Rating	52.0
Favourable %	27.3%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	72.7%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	22
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	17
Nikola Gruevski (Prime Minister, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	14
Gjorge Ivanov (President of former Yugoslav Rrepublic of Macedonia)	13
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	8
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	6

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