



Key Quotes

The leader of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia opposition confirmed to EurActiv that his party will not recognise the last election results in the country and denounces ‘a dictatorship’, as the “new government” fails to get congratulations from the EU and USA. In the meantime, the Enlargement Commissioner has “cancelled his trip to Macedonia”, where he was supposed to meet with high-level officials in the framework of the High-Level Accession Dialogue (HLAD), a tool the Commission put in place to “keep the EU process alive” in the country, local media report. Although it was not confirmed that Füle cancelled the trip, EU sources told EurActiv “it is there between the lines. In the current situation, it does not make much sense to add another round of HLAD, they first need to sort their current troubles.” (euractiv.com, BE, 19/5)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/enlargement/macedonian-opposition-boycotts-parliament-over-claims-election-fraud-302196>

Summary

Dangerous times for Erdoğan?

After the mine catastrophe in Soma, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdoğan will face political difficulties, notes chairman of the German Green Party, Cem Özdemir, in a guest article for Bild-Am-Sonntag. He writes that Mr Erdoğan was able to write off the Gezi demonstrators as radical students and foreign conspirators, but now families and workers are on the street. The accession discussions with the EU will be negatively affected. Nobody believes that Turkey will join the EU under Mr Erdoğan (Bild-Am-Sonntag, DE, 18/5). Gerd Höhler states in his commentary that the planned election rally in Cologne by the Turkish Prime Minister is inappropriate due to his scandalous behaviour after the mining accident. Mr Höhler adds that it is also “out of place” for Mr Erdoğan to campaign in Germany for the upcoming [Turkish] Presidential elections. Despite corruption and censoring the internet, Mr Erdoğan increased his share of votes. Turkey’s economy has grown in the past eleven years, yet society is deeply divided, Mr Höhler states. He adds that such a divided society *could not be economically successful in the long run*. (Handelsblatt, DE, 19/5).

- Bild-Am-Sonntag, DE, 18/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140518/mi/item_199262305.pdf
- Handelsblatt, DE, 19/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140519/mi/item_199309453.pdf

Agreement between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Bulgarian President Rossen Plevneliev has written to Gjorge Ivanov, his counterpart in Skopje, accepting his proposal that the 1999 declaration on bilateral relations be transformed into an agreement on good neighbourly relations between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Amid frequently difficult bilateral relations, the issue of formalising a good neighbourliness agreement has been on the agenda between the two countries for years and has been cited as key to Skopje’s stated ambitions of taking the country towards European Union membership. According to a statement by Plevneliev’s office on May 17, the Bulgarian President wrote to Ivanov: “I readily accept your proposal on the Declaration of the Prime Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia of 1999 to be transformed into an Agreement on Good Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation.” (balkaneu.com, GR, 18/5). However focus-fen.net (BG, 18/5) suggests it would not be a good idea for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to accept an unacceptable agreement. In the first place, there is no sense in the re-signing of the declaration since this has already been done once and it provided strategic concessions on behalf of Macedonia. In the second place, the difference between a declaration and an agreement, especially when it comes to a neighbourly agreement, is huge.

- balkaneu.com, GR, 18/5, <http://www.balkaneu.com/plevneliev-accepts-ivanovs-offer-good-neighbourly-relations-agreement-bulgaria-fyr-macedonia/>
- focus-fen.net, BG, 18/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/05/19/336648/vecer-macedonia-incorrect-neighbourly-manoevre-from-bulgaria.html>

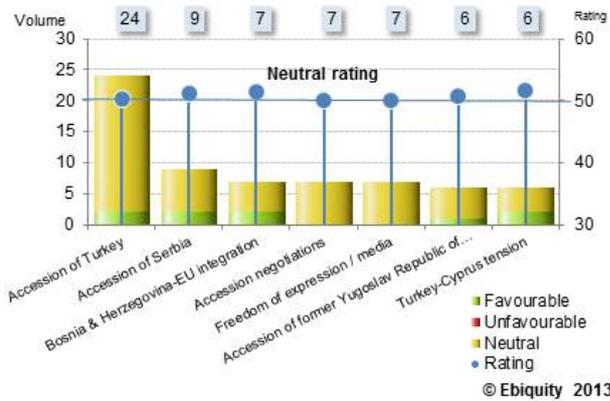
Montenegro angers Russia

The past few weeks have shown that traditionally Russophile Balkan nations that cling to their European aspirations can expect a tongue-lashing at the very least from Moscow. Montenegro’s crime in Russian eyes was its March decision to go along with imposing EU sanctions on 33 Ukrainian and Russian officials, some close to Russian President Vladimir Putin (bne.eu, DE, 19/5)

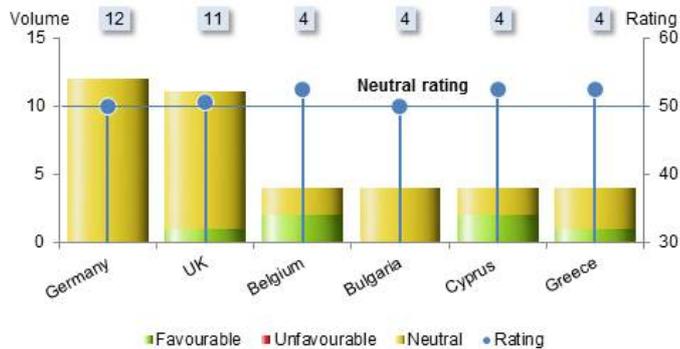
- bne.eu, DE, 19/5, <http://www.bne.eu/content/russia-poses-problems-balkans-eu-journey>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Leading Daily Countries
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: Highlights
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	46 items
Rating	51.0
Favourable %	15.2%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	84.8%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	14
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	5
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	4
Gjorge Ivanov (President former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	4
David Martin (MEP)	4
Nicola Sturgeon (Deputy First Minister, Scotland)	4
George Lyon (MEP)	4

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