



Key Quotes

Turkey must restore lost independence to its judiciary if its ambition to join the European Union is to stay on track, a top EU official said on Tuesday, criticising the hasty adoption of new laws and judicial purges following a government graft scandal. **"Over the past months there have been doubts cast over Turkey's commitment to European values and standards,"** Štefan Füle said in a statement. But Füle leapt to the defence of Turkey's constitutional court, which has repeatedly been criticised by Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan, championing its cancellation of bans on social media sites YouTube and Twitter and its amendments to controversial legislation which gave government more control of the judiciary. **"These actions of the constitutional court contribute to what is now really needed: to bring confidence back to the judiciary,"** he said (Reuters.com, UK, 17/6) <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/06/17/uk-turkey-eu-idUKKBN0ES1ZX20140617>

Summary

Serbia and human rights commitments

The European Union must do everything it can to ensure Serbia addresses the culture of impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, committed by Serbian police, military and paramilitary forces during the wars of the 1990s, Amnesty International said in a new report published today. *Serbia: Ending Impunity for Crimes under International Law* details how and why thousands of victims – across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo – have been denied access to justice. The new report is published in advance of accession negotiations on human rights commitments, which Serbia will be required to implement before joining the EU. It analyses the problems within the prosecutorial and judicial system, and identifies a number of obstacles and institutional barriers to the thorough, impartial and effective investigation and prosecution of crimes under international law (amnesty.org.uk, UK, 17/6).

- amnesty.org.uk, UK, 17/6, <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/serbia-eu-accession-key-ending-impunity-war-crimes>

Füle at the EU-Turkey working group on Chapter 23

European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, spoke about the EU-Turkey working group on Chapter 23. Commissioner Füle said on June 17 in Ankara *"I am glad to be here today with Ministers Çavuşoglu and Bozdağ at this third meeting of the working group on chapter 23 – Judiciary and fundamental rights. This meeting is a fundamental element in our joint efforts to address issues relevant for the progress in the accession process. As you are well aware I attach a great importance to engaging with Turkey on all political criteria-related issues which are so much at the centre of the accession process. An independent and impartial judiciary and the respect for fundamental rights are of a crucial significance for EU accession"* (neurope.eu, BE, 17/6).

- neurope.eu, BE, 17/6, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/f%C3%BCle-eu-turkey-working-group-chapter-23>

Citizen engagement and enlargement

The EU tried to motivate the EU citizens to engage themselves more into the democratic process within the EU but the low turnout at the recent elections reflected more their absence than anything else. This should not surprise anyone, since 58% of all the citizens believe they have absolutely no influence on decision-making within the EU. The extreme right parties have also done nothing other than batten onto the increasing discontent among people. Besides, now it is also not sure that Presidential candidate Jean-Claude Juncker will actually become the new EC President. With this kind of mood, there is no possibility that Turkey, Georgia, Moldova, or any other country might join the EU soon. However, writes Poslovni dnevnik (HR, 17/6), there is a way forward - more public control and responsibility.

- Poslovni dnevnik, HR, 17/6, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140617/mi/item_203064161.pdf

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	11
Angela Merkel (Chancellor, Germany)	6
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	4
Ditmir Bushati (Foreign Minister, Albania)	3
Karl Erjavec (Foreign Minister, Slovenia)	3
Jo Biden (Vice President, US)	3

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