



## Key Quotes

**"The enlargement process should speed up over the next five years for Balkan nations,"** said Elmar Brok, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, at the European Parliament. Brok noted that **"it was in the EU's interest and in the interest of stability in Europe that the process be accelerated, but that candidate nations were responsible for complying with the conditions set by the EU, especially as concerns the economy, rule of law and anti-corruption and organized crime measures"** (ansamed.info, IT, 2/12).

[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/12/02/eu-should-speed-up-enlargement-talks-for-balkans-brok\\_c411a86e-9226-4bea-9c26-21c6fb257eb8.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/12/02/eu-should-speed-up-enlargement-talks-for-balkans-brok_c411a86e-9226-4bea-9c26-21c6fb257eb8.html)

## Summary

### The European Commission granted Macedonia € 20 million grant for rural development

The European Commission is poised to give 20 million euros to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for modernizing its agriculture and developing its rural areas, according to two agreements signed on Monday. The fund will be used to support the European Union candidate country by improving the competitiveness of its agricultural holdings and ensuring sustainable environmental and socio-economic development of rural areas (Balkans.com, UK, 2/12). European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, remarked that without a good judicial system it is impossible to attract investments. He said that an independent judicial system will be one of the conditions set by Brussels to member state candidates. Utrinski vesnik daily comments that the conditions set by the EU are getting more and more complex and mentions supremacy of the law, the fight against corruption, economic development and coordination with the EU foreign policy (focus-news.net, BG, 2/12).

- bta.bg, BG, 1/12, <http://www.bta.bg/bg/c/BA/id/965183>
- Balkans.com, UK, 2/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199335>
- focus-news.net, BG, 2/12, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/12/02/356108/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-justice-a-key-issue-for-macedonias-eu-bid-says-hahn.html>

### Putin visits Turkey with an agenda dominated by economic issues

Both governments have set a target to increase bilateral trade to \$ 100,000,000 by 2020 and Moscow has encouraged Turkish companies to take advantage of economic sanctions of the European Union to improve its position in the Russian market (diarivasco.com, ES, 1/12). Russia announced that it has scrapped the South Stream pipeline project to supply gas to southern Europe without crossing Ukraine citing EU objections and instead named Turkey as its preferred partner for an alternative pipeline, with a promise of hefty discounts. The South Stream pipeline had exposed cracks in EU strategy as Hungary, Austria, Serbia and Bulgaria among others saw it as a solution to the risk of a repeat of supply disruptions via Ukraine while Brussels and Washington saw the project as entrenching Moscow's energy stranglehold on Europe (EurActiv.com, BE, 2/12).

- diarivasco.com, ES, 1/12, <http://www.diarivasco.com/agencias/201412/01/putin-visita-turquia-agenda-254265.html>
- EurActiv.com, BE, 2/12, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/russia-says-south-stream-project-over-310491>

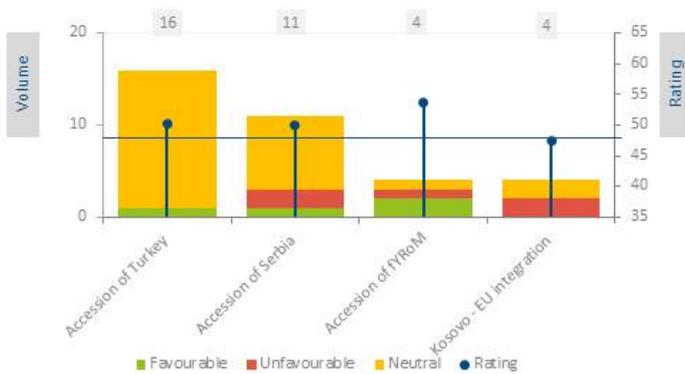
### Albanian focus on anti-terrorism

The Albanian government has formed a special directorate to exclusively deal with anti-terrorism issues. This was announced by the Albanian Interior Minister, Saimir Tahiri, following a meeting that he had yesterday in Rome with the Italian Interior Minister, Angelino Alfano. The meeting between Tahiri and Alfano is said to have focused on further bilateral cooperation in the fight against organized crime, illicit trafficking and terrorism. The meeting asked for exchanges of information and better coordination in the joint effort between the countries of the region and EU partners (balkaneu.com, GR, 2/12).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 2/12, <http://www.balkaneu.com/albanian-government-forms-special-directorate-100-anti-terrorism-experts/>

# Charts

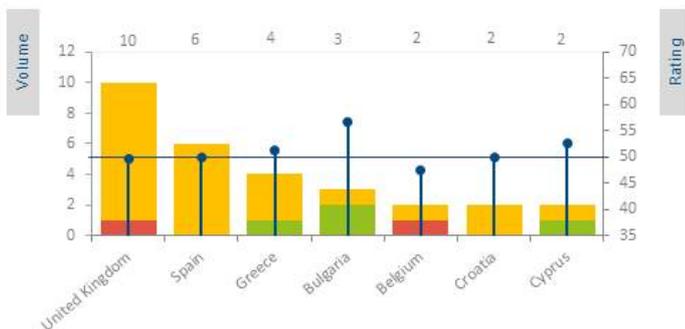
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	15
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	12
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	8
Vojislav Šešelj - Serbian politician	6
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg QUOTED	3
Federica Mogherini - QUOTED	2
Zoran Milanović - PM Croatia	2

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