



Key Quotes

Top European Union officials have sharply criticised a mass arrest of media representatives in Turkey. Foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini and the commissioner heading EU enlargement talks said the arrests went **"against European values"**. In a statement, Ms Mogherini and EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn said any move towards EU membership depended on **"full respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights"**. The raids and arrests **"are incompatible with the freedom of media, which is a core principle of democracy,"** the pair said in a statement. **"We expect that the principle of presumption of innocence will prevail and recall the inalienable right for an independent and transparent investigation"** (BBC Online, UK, 14/12).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30471996>

Summary

Enlargement of Europe postponed

The Dutch parliament debated EU Enlargement with Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Bert Koenders. Both parties concluded that they agree with Jean-Claude Juncker's policy not to enlarge the EU during the coming 5 years. They said that none of the 7 countries that currently have candidate membership status comply with the requirements for EU accession (NRC Handelsblad, NL, 12/12).

- NRC Handelsblad, NL, 12/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141211/mi/item_226528122.pdf

Renzi supports Turkey's EU accession

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi met Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to discuss economic cooperation and the alliance to fight ISIS Islamic fundamentalists in order to stabilise the Mediterranean and Balkan areas. Mr Renzi is aiming to attract Turkish investors to Italy and will open a business forum between Italian and Turkish firms. Both Italy and Turkey are in favour of new investments to boost growth. Moreover, Turkey could join the EU by 2015, a strategic objective, because Turkey is a part of Europe from the political, geographical and economic point of view (Sole 24 Ore, IT, 12/12). However defencenet.gr (GR, 12/12) reports that the EU is concerned regarding the law that strengthens the powers of the police in Turkey.

- Informazione.it, IT, 12/12, <http://www.informazione.it/a/98089570-C95F-4898-87C9-3C038FBB7B36/Renzi-sostiene-l-adesione-della-Turchia-all-Ue>
- Sole 24 Ore, IT, 12/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141212/mi/item_226551877.pdf
- defencenet.gr, GR, 12/12, <http://www.defencenet.gr/defence/item/%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B7%CF%83%CF%85%CF%87%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CE%B5%CE%B5-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%87%CE%AD%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF-%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%87%CF%8D%CE%B5%CE%B9-%CF%84%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%B5%CE%BE%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%83%CE%AF%CE%B5%CF%82-%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%B1%CF%83%CF%84%CF%85%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%AF%CE%B1%CF%82-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%81%CE%BA%CE%AF%CE%B1>

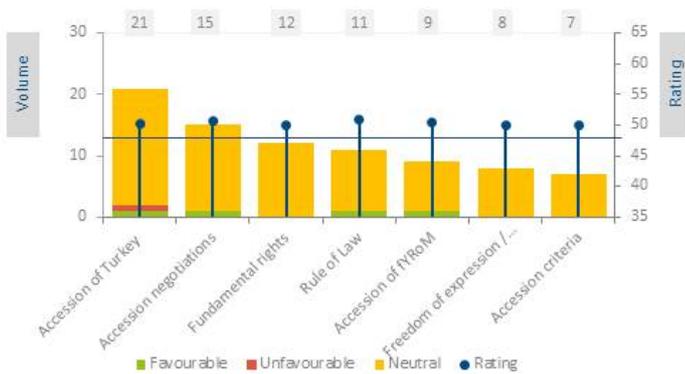
Not only about gas

Jürgen Gottschlich in Die Tageszeitung (DE, 12/12) comments that the new axis which is in the process of being formed between Moscow and Ankara is in part due to Western arrogance vis-à-vis both countries. He notes that while many commentators thought the news of a cancellation of South Stream to be energy-related and to do with Russian financial woes, it is actually about a fundamental reorientation of Russian foreign policy. The CEO of Gazprom Alexey Miller is quoted as saying that *"in future the EU will have to face the mighty transit country Turkey"*. Mr Gottschlich concludes that Russia and Turkey are possessed of an aggressive potential that may create significant problems for Europe.

- Die Tageszeitung, DE, 12/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141212/mi/item_226535312.pdf

Charts

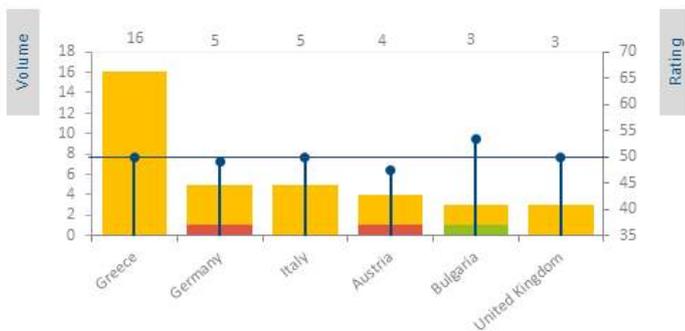
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	3
Hashim Thaçi - Kosovo PM	3
Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC	2
David Schwendiman - Lead Prosecutor for the Special Investigative Task Force (SITF)	2
Péter Sijjártó - Hungary FM	2

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