



Key Quotes

The European Commission will support Bosnia's reform programme with 166 million euros (132.05 million pounds) until 2017 in a drive to revive the country's bid to join the EU. **"This assistance comes at a very important time for Bosnia,"** Johannes Hahn, the EU neighbourhood policy and enlargement commissioner, said in a statement. **"It will support the EU's renewed approach and the implementation of reforms that will directly impact citizens and help the country move forward on the path to the EU,"** he said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 16/12).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/16/uk-bosnia-eu-idUKKBN0JU1XT20141216>

Summary

Agreement on plan for BiH

The European Union agreed on 15 December to implement a British-German plan to revive Bosnia and Herzegovina's bid to join the EU. This could be a turning point in Bosnia Herzegovina's path towards the European Union. Frederica Mogherini told a news conference. A national government has yet to be formed following elections in October but the inaugural session of the new lower house of parliament last week saw the emergence of a majority seen as backing the British-German initiative to spur economic reform and unlock EU funds. (EurActiv.com, BE, 16/12). European Union nations are demanding that the leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina commit themselves in writing to legal, social and economic reforms. Bosnia wants to join the EU, but in the past four years it has been plagued by economic stagnation, social unrest, official corruption and a staggering unemployment rate of 44 percent (New Europe, BE, 16/12).

- EurActiv.com, BE, 16/12, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/enlargement/eu-seeks-revive-bosnias-membership-bid-310844>
- New Europe, BE, 16/12, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/eu-demands-written-bosnian-commitment-reform>

Don't close the door to the EU straight away

The Dutch EP Kati Piri (Partij van de Arbeid - Labour Party) is shocked by the arrests in Turkey, Trouw (NE, 16/12) writes. But the new Turkey rapporteur says it is not a good idea to immediately stop European subsidies. Last week Piri visited the country and met every single minister she had wanted to meet. Also she was warmly welcomed in Istanbul and Ankara. Piri does not see the arrests as a moral attack on the EU. *'This action is about the internal battle between the governing AKP Party and the Gülen Movement'* she says. But internal battle or not, European values have declined in Turkey in the last years Piri admits. *'First of all, a judge should look into the matter. I don't think it can be proved that the journalists are members of a terrorist organisation'* she adds. However The Guardian (UK, 16/12) notes that the arrests of journalists in Turkey have been deplored by international human rights organisations, press freedom groups and UK journalists' bodies. Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the arrests will harm media freedom and chill free speech.

- Trouw, NE, 16/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141216/mi/item_227071755.pdf
- The Guardian, UK, 16/12, <http://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2014/dec/16/arrests-of-turkish-journalists-widely-condemned-across-the-world>

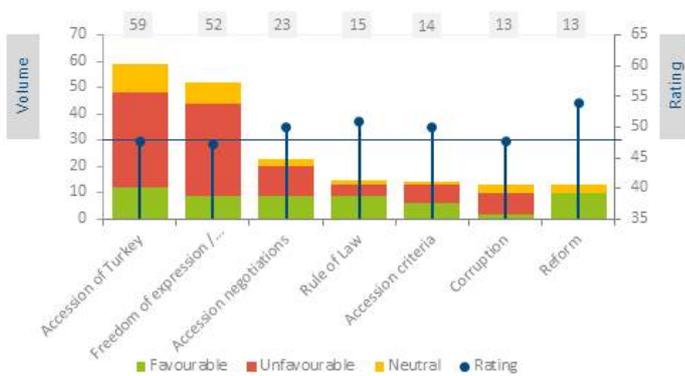
Chinese investment in Europe

China is preparing a fresh investment push into central and Eastern Europe, promising more than \$10 billion in loans for energy and infrastructure projects to be discussed in Belgrade this week. China is seeking a new foothold on the continent, outside the European Union, under a strategy adopted in 2012 (EurActiv.com, BE, 16/12).

- EurActiv.com, be, 16/12, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/china-seeks-gateway-eu-cash-strapped-balkans-310839>

Charts

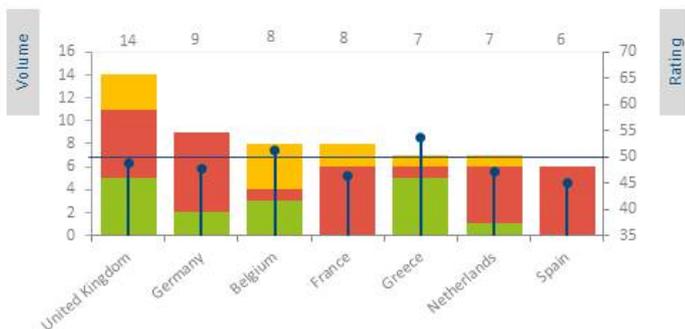
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	57
Federica Mogherini	40
Fethullah Gulen - US based Turkish politician	38
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	36
Frank-Walter Steinmeier - FM Germany	7
Sebastian Kurz - FM Austria	6

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