



## Key Quotes

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stepped up his rhetoric in a bitter row with the European Union over arrests of opposition media, saying the bloc has no right to give lessons in democracy and should itself **"look in the mirror"**. **"They say they will give a democracy lesson to Turkey. Take the trouble to come here, so that Turkey can give you a lesson in democracy,"** he said. **"They've been dragging feet over the last decade.... Sorry, but we are not the EU's doorman," the president said. "If they let us in, they do. If they don't, they don't,"** he said. **"You may speak against Turkey as much as you like. We will draw our own route."** Erdogan warned the EU not to give **"advice"** to Turkey (yahoo!, UK, 17/12).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/erdogan-says-eu-cant-turkey-democracy-lesson-193749929.html#QLtD1sl>

EU Council of Ministers has called on the European Commission to propose as soon as possible the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between Kosovo and the EU. Minister of European Integration, Bekim Çollaku said: **"It's very important that EU countries have given the green light in order for the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Kosovo to be signed as soon as possible. We're also encouraged about the fact that the council has welcomed the dialogue taken place so far for the liberalization of the visa regime. Another positive element of the conclusions relates to the fact that the EU has strongly supported the policy of enlargement and the European perspective for the West Balkan countries and in our case, it has left its doors open for the integration of Kosovo in the EU"** (balkan.eu.com, GR, 17/12).

<http://www.balkan.eu.com/kosovo-green-light-sign-saa-eu/>

## Summary

### The EU has opened four new chapters in accession talks with Montenegro.

The Montenegro decision came at an intergovernmental meeting in Brussels on Tuesday 16 December and covers chapters on: statistics; consumer and health protection; customs union; and financial and budgetary affairs. (EU Observer, BE, 17/12). Resulting from the Conference, out of a total of 35 negotiation chapters 16 chapters have now been opened for negotiations of which 2 chapters have already been provisionally closed (Balkans.com, UK, 17/12). Commissioner Hahn said that the overall pace of accession negotiations depends on progress on the rule of law adding that Montenegro has recently made progress in this crucial area, specifically in the fight against corruption (New Europe, BE, 17/12).

- EU Observer, BE, 17/12, <http://euobserver.com/foreign/126960>
- Balkans.com, UK, 17/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199767>
- New Europe, BE, 17/12, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/eu-montenegro-four-chapters-accession-negotiations-opened>

### Battle to the end

Cypriot Foreign Minister, Ioannis Kasoulides, ensured at the General Affairs Council that there is no reference in the EU conclusions on Turkey's EU accession to the possibility for the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 of the country's EU accession negotiations. 16 member states had wanted the opening of accession negotiations for Turkey but Cyprus objected to the suggestion that was spearheaded by the UK and Sweden (Phileleftheros, CY, 17/12). The Turkish ambassador, Ömer Önhon, said **"Turkey is not a country for Europe to fiddle with"** adding **"EU membership has always been a strategic objective but we are not being treated fairly"** (La Vanguardia, ES, 17/12).

- Phileleftheros, CY, 17/12, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141217/mi/item\\_227251315.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141217/mi/item_227251315.pdf)
- La Vanguardia, ES, 17/12, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141217/mi/item\\_227254705.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141217/mi/item_227254705.pdf)

### Commissioner Hahn to travel to former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

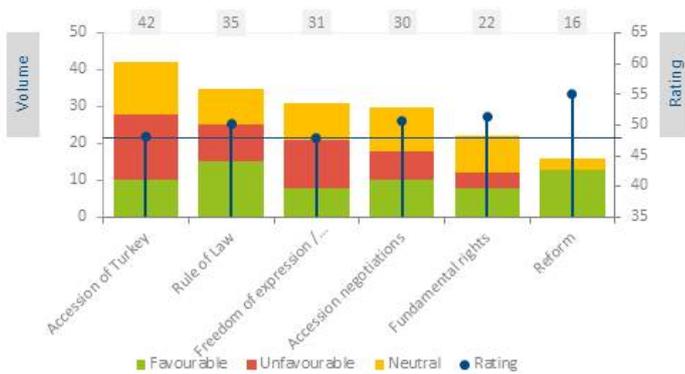
The EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn will visit the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on January. His visit will aim at influencing the political dialogue and overcoming political crisis, Dnevnik daily writes. According to the paper the main focus of the visit will be not only on the talks between ruling and opposition parties but will the Commissioner will also meet the opposition parties (focus-news.net, BG, 17/12). As far as accession is concerned, the launching of the accession negotiations that the country is asking for will be examined in 2015, but in combination with the progress on the name issue with Greece. The European Commission estimated that the political criteria have been met to a satisfying degree (Naftemporiki, GR, 17/12).

- focus-news.net, BG, 17/12, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/12/17/357502/dnevnik-macedonia-eu-doesnt-show-understanding-in-terms-of-opposition-boycott.html>

- Naftemporiki, GR, 17/12, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141217/mi/item\\_227251705.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141217/mi/item_227251705.pdf)

# Charts

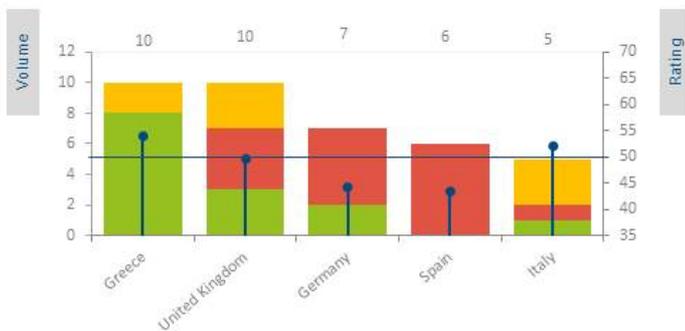
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	21
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	20
Federica Mogherini HR Foreign Affairs EU	11
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - Turkey FM	11
Fethullah Gulen - US based Turkish politician	7
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	3
Vesna Pusić - Croatia FM	3

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