



Key Quotes

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu on Sunday accused the European Union of starting a "dirty campaign" against Turkey by criticising the arrests of opponents of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. "The EU even made its statement on a holiday. With this statement, they started a dirty campaign concerning our government," he told the congress. "With this dirty campaign, they are waging a defamation campaign against our government and our country," he added in televised remarks (Yahoo!, UK, 21/12).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/pm-accuses-eu-dirty-campaign-against-turkey-193856922.html#TOPZ8SC>

The presidential candidate of the Alliance for Croatia Milan Kujundžić says Croatia should ask Serbia to solve all outstanding issues, including war crimes and war damages, before joining the EU. "**Serbia must know that it will have to meet all those democratic standards that Croatia met if it really wants to enter the EU**" (dalje.com, HR, 21/12).

<http://dalje.com/en-croatia/presidential-candidates-talk-defence-nato-palestine-presidential-powers/531469>

Summary

The new Kosovo government is ready to resume dialogue with Serbia

The Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo will continue their dialogue hosted by the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini in January in Brussels. An exact date for the meeting was not given (ORF Online, AT, 19/12). The new Kosovo government is ready to resume the dialogue with Serbia, said Foreign Minister Hashim Thaçi. According to him, talks to normalize relations with Belgrade will probably be resumed in the second half of January. Meanwhile, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić announced that he will soon present a proposal for a final settlement of the Kosovo issue (Radio Bulgaria, BG, 19/12). "*I have been working on this proposal intensively, because we are already somewhere on the edge and each new concession by us could mean that we, somewhat tacitly, have agreed to many things*" Nikolić said in an interview (Vecernji.hr, HR, 19/12).

- Radio Bulgaria, BG, 19/12, <http://bnr.bg/post/100500131>
- Vecernji.hr, HR, 19/12, <http://www.vecernji.hr/svijet/nikolic-intenzivno-radi-na-konacnom-rjesenju-za-kosovo-980182>
- ORF Online, AT, 19/12, <http://orf.at/stories/2258269/>

West cannot ignore Turkey

Critics at home and abroad fear President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's tightening grip on power is likely to meet little more than symbolic resistance from the West next year, as Turkey's G20 presidency and the fight against Islamic State trump concerns about a slide towards authoritarianism. People simply can't afford to ignore Turkey, whatever the policies of President Erdogan" said Fadi Hakura, a Turkey analyst at London's Chatham House think-tank (investing.com, CY, 19/12).

- investing.com, CY, 19/12, <http://www.investing.com/news/world-news/in-dealings-with-the-west-erdogan-holds-all-the-cards-320912>

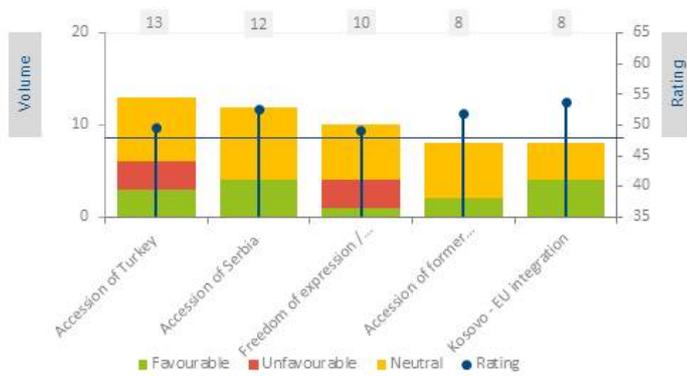
Russian support for Serbia

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has rejected Western accusations that Moscow is trying to increase Serbia's dependence on Russia and push it away from the European Union. Lavrov spoke at a joint news conference with Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić after their meeting in Moscow on December 19th. Lavrov said Russia has been accused of increasing political and economic pressure on Serbia and added "*We are not doing this*". He called such accusations "*neo-colonial rhetoric*". Lavrov said he and Dačić had discussed South Stream, a natural-gas pipeline project that Russia said it was scrapping earlier this month after it ran afoul of EU competition rules. Lavrov promised that any Russian decisions on new routes for gas would take the interests of Serbia, which was to have received gas via South Stream, into account (rferl.org, CZ, 19/12).

- rferl.org, CZ, 19/12, <http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-serbia-eu-gas/26752429.html>

Charts

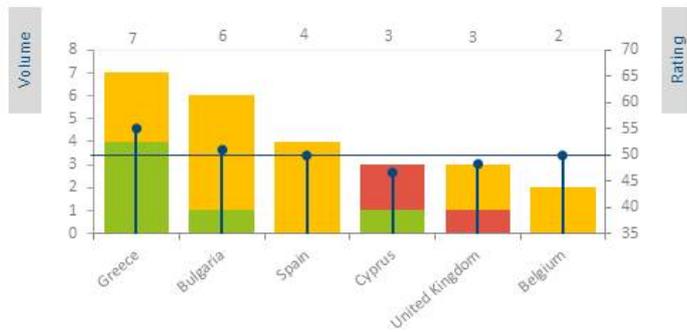
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
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Volume	30 items
Rating	50.8
Favourable %	20%
Unfavourable %	10%
Neutral %	70%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	8
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	6
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	3
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	3
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	3
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	3

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