



## Key Quotes

The news follows comments by the Icelandic prime minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson in a radio interview, that a resolution to formally withdraw the membership request will go before Iceland's parliament. Icelandic news service mbl.is quoted the Prime Minister as saying that accession negotiations are "**at square one as all the work on it that had been carried out before was in fact obsolete**". Reacting to Gunnlaugsson's comments EFDD group co-chair and leader of the UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage said, "**This move by Icelandic authorities and the increasing Mediterranean opposition to the EU shows that the idea of the inevitability of EU integration has been smashed**" (theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 5/1).

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/eu-integration-%CA%B9smashed%CA%B9-iceland-application-rethink>

## Summary

### Economic development for Kosovo

The new government of Kosovo has pledged that it will work for the economic development of the country, to fight corruption and strengthen the rule of law. But experts of political developments in the country say that the agenda of new institutions will be determined by the international community. Prominent analyst Vilhard Shala told IBNA that dialogue with Serbia and the creation of the Special Court on KLA's alleged crimes, will occupy a key place in the government's agenda. According to him, if the problems of the citizens are further ignored, than this may lead to protests that will shake the governing coalition. Meanwhile, analyst Shkelzen Dakaj told IBNA that Prime Minister Isa Mustafa must address the fundamental problems that the society in Kosovo faces (balkaneu.com, GR, 5/1).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 5/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/government-kosovo-face-domestic-international-challenges/>

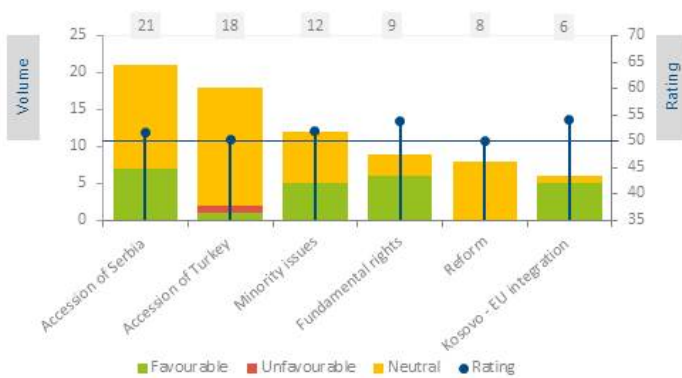
### Turkey's progress and Erdogan

In an opinion piece for Les Echos (FR, 5/1) Dominique Moisi - Special Advisor at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) suggests that the Russian and Turkish presidents are personally isolating themselves within their respective countries and on the international stage. Even though the EU "*has more than contributed to the Turkey's remoteness, Erdogan's personal evolution cannot only be attributed to the EU and the member states' reluctance*" he says. The BBC (UK, 5/1) reports that Turkey's government has approved plans to build the first new church in the country in more than 90 years. The church will be built in the Yesilkoy suburb of Istanbul for the Syriac Christian community, the Daily Sabah website reports. Turkey has a strong Christian heritage but a series of genocides in the early 20th century killed much of the Christian population and the population of Turkey is now over 97 per cent Muslim. Churches monasteries and synagogues have been restored in recent years in an attempt to improve minority rights as part of a bid to join the European Union. Pope Francis made a landmark trip to Turkey in November last year, where he prayed alongside a senior Islamic cleric at a Mosque in Istanbul (christiantoday.com, UK, 5/1).

- Les Echos, FR, 5/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150105/mi/item\\_229273238.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150105/mi/item_229273238.pdf)
- BBC, UK, 5/1, <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-30679848>
- christiantoday.com, UK, 5/1, <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/turkey.first.church.to.be.built.since.collapse.of.the.ottoman.empire/45364.htm>

# Charts

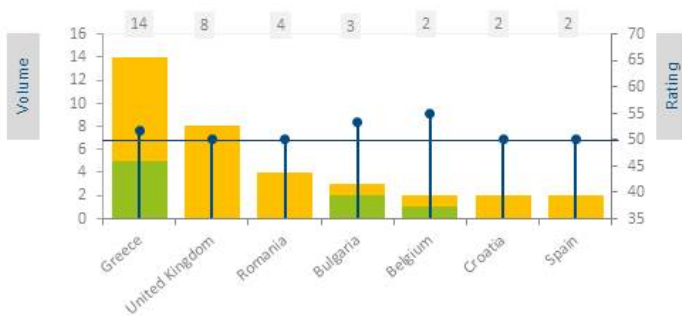
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	11
Fethullah Gulen - Turkish opposition leader in US	7
Federica Mogherini	2
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	2
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	2
Ivan Crnčec - Justice Minister, Croatia	2

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