



## Key Quotes

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Tuesday warned the European Union it should crack down on "**Islamophobia**" amid rising anti-Muslim protests instead of trying to teach Turkey lessons about democracy. In a new attack on the EU, Erdoğan called on the 28-member bloc to "**revisit its Turkey policy**", accusing Europe of dragging its feet on Ankara's decade-old membership bid. "**Believe me it is regrettable that the EU is trying teach a lesson to Turkey instead of trying to tackle very serious threats it is facing,**" he said (yahoo!, UK, 6/1).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/time-crack-down-islamophobia-turkeys-erdogan-tells-eu-202705951.html#Pg9OOWL>

Serbian president Tomislav Nikolić said in an interview with Happy TV that while he was keen for Serbia to join the EU, giving up Kosovo must not be made a condition for accession to the bloc. "**My position is clear and absolutely unchanged - we should be in the EU, and join the Union proudly. My position is that giving up on Kosovo-Metohija must not be a condition for joining the Union,**" Nikolić said. **Serbia "cannot [join the EU] without Kosovo-Metohija",** he added (bne.eu, DE, 6/1).

<http://www.bne.eu/content/story/serbian-president-says-kosovo-recognition-must-not-be-precondition-eu-entry>

## Summary

### Turkey corruption probe

A parliamentary committee investigating corruption allegations has voted against prosecuting four former Cabinet ministers on graft charges. The four ministers stepped down last year amid suspicions of bribery and illicit money transfers to Iran. The government insisted that the allegations were orchestrated by followers of an influential U.S. based Muslim cleric intent on bringing down the government. It nevertheless agreed to set up a committee to investigate the accusations. The committee which is dominated by members of Turkey's ruling party, voted 9-5 on Monday against referring the ex-ministers to the Supreme Court. Parliament's full house will have the final say on whether the politicians should be prosecuted; they are expected to be spared trial because of the ruling party's strong majority. (New Europe, 6/1). Parliamentary deputy, Levent Gök, of the main opposition Republican People's Party condemned the committee decision to clear the ministers. Gök described Turkish politics as going through a dark day with the AK party commission votes (focus-news.net, BG, 6/1).

- New Europe, 6/1, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/turkish-ministers-avoid-trial-over-corruption-allegations>
- focus-news.net, BG, 6/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/01/06/359135/turkish-mps-clear-ex-ministers-of-corruption.html>

### Reaction to possible Icelandic withdrawal from accession

Following reports that Iceland is set to withdraw from EU accession (Vilaggazdasag, HU, 6/1), Birgir Ármannsson, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Icelandic parliament said "*it is not unexpected that the prime minister is likely to present a new parliamentary resolution to revoke the membership application*". The report was dismissed as rumour and speculation by Icelandic diplomatic sources in Brussels. There was an attempt in the island's Foreign Affairs committee to terminate the accession process last year but that failed. It is certainly possible that a further bid could be made but no firm decision seems to have been taken. Iceland is a member the European economic area (EEA) and the Schengen area. They applied to join the EU in 2009 after the island was rocked by the financial crisis but their desire is said to have cooled since. The European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has said that there will be no new members of the EU in the next five years as the union struggles to exit the financial crisis and restore faith with the citizens (New Europe, BE, 6/1).

- Vilaggazdasag, HU, 6/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150106/mi/item\\_229416738.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150106/mi/item_229416738.pdf)
- New Europe, BE, 6/1, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/speculation-iceland-will-end-eu-membership-bid>

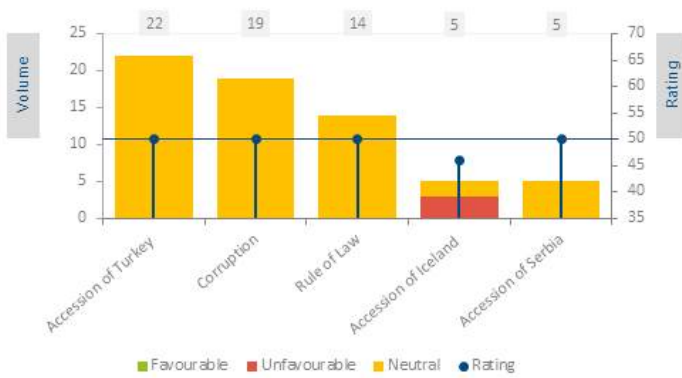
### Serbian reforms

Serbia intends to declare 188 state-owned companies bankrupt. The move aims firstly to enable Serbia to meet the conditions of the loan agreement amounting to one billion euros with the International Monetary Fund and also to put the Balkan country on track towards European Union (Sofokleousin.gr, GR, 5/1).

- Sofokleousin.gr, GR, 5/1, <http://www.sofokleousin.gr/archives/206487.html>

# Charts

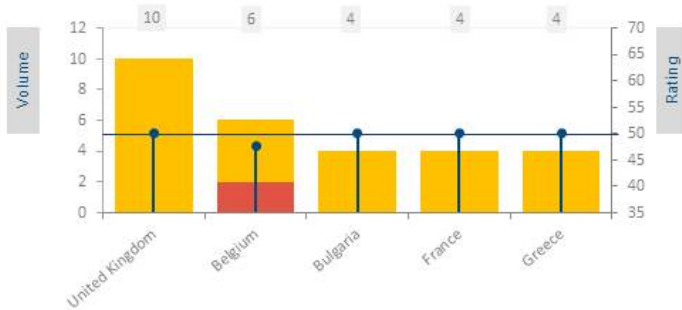
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by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	19
Fethullah Gulen - US based Turkish opposition leader	17
Sigmundur Davið Gunnlaugsson - Iceland PM	5
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	2
Jean-Claude Juncker – President EC	1
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	1
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson - Iceland FM	1

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