



Key Quotes

Iceland is planning to formally withdraw its EU application. Eirikur Bergmann, a professor of political science from the Centre for European Studies at Bifrost University said that Iceland is divided down the middle on the issue and there is no easy way out. ***"This government has said they won't put it to a referendum. Probably they are afraid of the wrong results, for their policies, so I would predict that this stalemate that exists in Iceland will continue,"*** he said (express.be, BE, 7/1). <http://www.express.be/business/nl/economy/ijland-wil-aanvraag-lidmaatschap-europese-unie-intrekken/210432.htm>

Summary

Press freedom in Turkey

On the day the Dutch foreign minister visited the Turkish capital Ankara, a Dutch journalist was briefly arrested at her home in Diyarbakir, a south eastern city with mainly Kurdish inhabitants. Frederike Geerdink announced via social media, and later told Dutch Radio 1 on Tuesday (6 January) that nine Turkish police from the anti-terrorism unit searched her house. Geerdink was not taken into custody, but taken to a police station for questioning, an event she described as "very intimidating". The Dutch journalist, one of the few foreign correspondents based in Diyarbakir, often writes about the Kurdish minority in Turkey. Geerdink said she was suspected of creating propaganda for a terrorist organisation. The European Parliament is next week set to discuss media freedom in Turkey in its plenary session in Strasbourg. MEP Kati Piri said on Dutch radio that the situation for journalists in Turkey is deteriorating. (euobserver.com, BE, 7/1). Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Prime Minister, accused foreign media of waging a smear campaign against the country (Financial Times, UK, 7/6).

- euobserver.com, BE, 7/1, <https://euobserver.com/news/127113>
- Financial Times, UK, 7/1, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150107/mi/item_229551595.pdf

EP visit to Albania

European Parliament rapporteur on Albania Knut Fleckenstein visits Tirana once again in a three day agenda that kicks off today. The main objective of the visit is to assess the progress with the integration reforms in terms of the five priorities determined by the European Commission for the launch of negotiations for the accession of Albania in the EU. During his visit the rapporteur will be briefed about the preparation of the draft report on Albania. Fleckenstein will compile a draft resolution on Albania at the end of January, which will be later discussed by the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee. If everything goes to plan, the resolution is expected to be voted in a plenary session in April by the European Parliament (balkaneu.com, GR, 7/1).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 7/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/eu-rapporteur-assesses-progress-reforms-albania/>

Charts

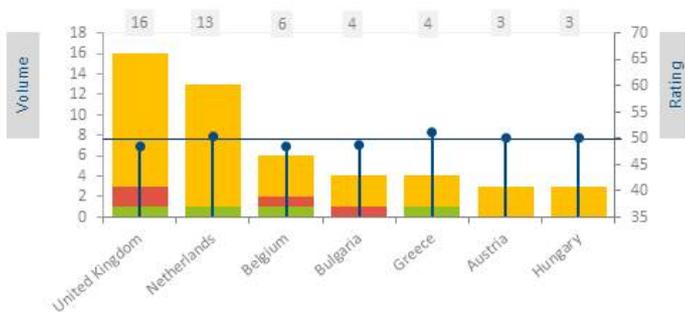
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Volume	58 items
Rating	49.2
Favourable %	6.9%
Unfavourable %	10.3%
Neutral %	82.8%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	26
Bert Koenders - Netherlands FM	25
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - Turkey FM	10
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	7
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	7
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	5
Sigmundur Davið Gunnlaugsson - Iceland PM	5

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