



## Key Quotes

EU funds spent on Serbia's reforms were managed efficiently by the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors' special report published 13th January concludes, but future projects could be better planned and executed, said the auditors. **"The EU-Serbia dialogue created a link between political priorities and policy formulation,"** said Szabolcs Fazakas, the European Court of Auditors member responsible for the report, **"Learning from its past pre-accession support, the Commission successfully supported Serbia in addressing key areas such as good governance, the rule of law and the fight against corruption."** (EurActiv.com, BE, 13/01)

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/enlargement/commission-could-spend-eu-funds-better-serbia-auditors-say-311216>

## Summary

### Turkish visit to Germany

Although Merkel rejects Turkish membership in the European Union, she said in talks with the Turkish President, Ahmed Davutoğlu, that the country is "*an ally*" (ABC.es Sevilla, ES, 13/1). Merkel said her government was doing everything it could to ensure migrants were being successfully integrated into German society regardless of their religion. Nearly two in three of the four million Muslims in Germany are of Turkish origin. Roughly half are German citizens. She and Davutoğlu announced that their governments would begin regular German-Turkish consultations, a format in which the cabinets meet once a year and which is reserved for some of Berlin's closest allies, like Israel and France. Davutoğlu said it was important to fight all forms of Islamophobia in Germany. Speaking later in Berlin, Davutoğlu said that if Turkey were accepted as a European Union member it would send a powerful message of how Muslims and Christians could live together in Europe in peace. On the other hand, he said that "*If Turkey as a secular and moderate country is not accepted into the EU because of cultural prejudice that will give a negative message*" (Times of Malta, MT, 13/1).

- ABC.es Sevilla, ES, 13/1, <http://sevilla.abc.es/internacional/20150113/abci-merkel-islamofobos-alemania-201501130335.html>
- Times of Malta, MT, 13/1, <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20150113/world/-Islam-belongs-to-Germany-Merkel-insists-before-rally.551706>

### New Croatian President and enlargement

The new Croatian president elect, Kolinda Grabar Kitarović sounded positive about accession of Bosnia Herzegovina into the EU but wants further rights for Croatians living in Bosnia Herzegovina (Index.hr, HR, 13/1). About Serbia she said "*I want to improve relations with Belgrade but on solid foundations. There are many issues to be resolved, related to the conflict of the nineties: the border issue needs to be settled as well as that of people still missing*" (Il Piccolo, IT, 13/1). Ziarul Financiar (RO, 13/1) suggested that a victory for conservatives could result in Croatia, drifting to the right, to a nationalism that could endanger the country's relations with neighbouring former Yugoslav republics, including Serbia.

- Index.hr, HR, 13/1, <http://www.index.hr/vijesti/clanak/ny-times-hrvatska-se-vraca-nacionalizmu-koji-je-dominirao-devedesetih/794565.aspx>
- Il Piccolo, IT, 13/1, <http://ilpiccolo.gelocal.it/trieste/cronaca/2015/01/13/news/kitarovi-con-roma-rafforzato-i-legami-1.10659516>
- Ziarul Financiar, RO, 13/1, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150113/mi/item\\_230377054.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150113/mi/item_230377054.pdf)

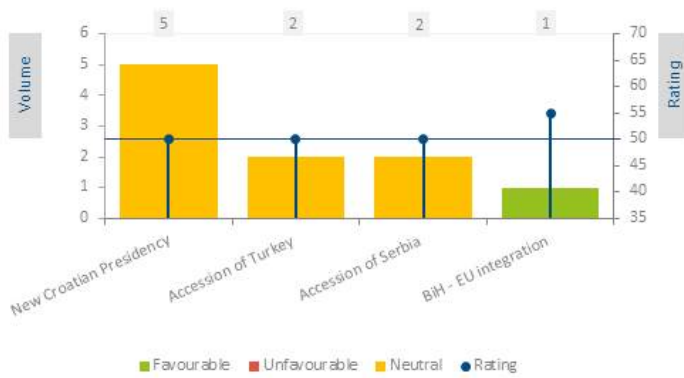
### Hahn visit to Poland

Commissioner Johannes Hahn met Polish leaders on Monday. The subsequent Press Conference touched on EU cooperation with the Western Balkans and Hahn spoke about the shape of European Neighbourhood Policy stressing that it must be "*tailor made*" to the needs of the countries neighbouring the EU and the EU itself should be more flexible, in order respond to events, such as the Arab Spring and the situation in Ukraine." (Radio Maryja, PO, 13/1).

- Radio Maryja, PO, 13/1, <http://www.radiomaryja.pl/informacje/hahn-powstanie-mapa-drogowa-ws-pomocy-dla-ukrainy/>

# Charts

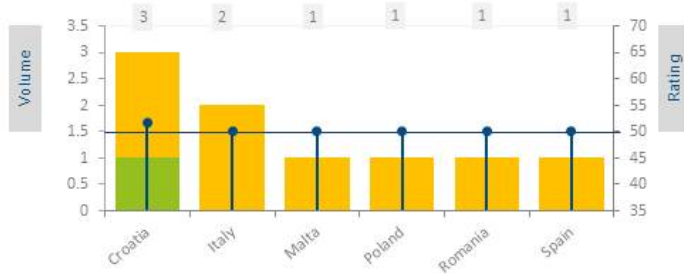
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Kolinda Grabar Kitarović - President elect Croatia	5
Ivo Josipović - President Croatia	4
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	2
Johannes Hahn	2
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	1

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