



Key Quotes

“The growth has come in circumstances of the consolidation of tax policies, in the domain of revenues and investments. Solvency conditions have improved. Another aspect relates to the revival of lending in 2014, but interest rates continued to be low. Economic growth has a tendency to continue and be stronger”, so reads a World Bank economic report looking at Albania. The report says that economic growth amounted to around 1% and this growth has gradually strengthened, despite an external environment which didn't favour growth. Growth mainly came from consumption and private investments, adding that there's a tendency for improvement of the economic activity and growth has included all sectors excluding transport. (balkaneu.com, GR, 20/1)

<http://www.balkaneu.com/albanias-economic-growth-strengthened-2014-world-bank/>

Summary

Progress for Montenegro

The Montenegrin Government discussed and adopted the Group of States against Corruption Second Compliance Report on Montenegro, which contains 14 recommendations in the field of incrimination and transparency of financing political parties. The report states that Montenegro has achieved great progress, particularly when it comes to meeting five recommendations regarding the harmonisation of the Montenegrin Criminal Code with the Criminal Law Convention against Corruption. In regards to the transparency of financing political parties, Montenegro had previously fulfilled five out of nine recommendations. The report dealt with the remaining four and concluded that progress had been made in meeting two out of these four recommendations. (Balkans.com, UK, 21/1).

- Balkans.com, UK, 21/1, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=200548>

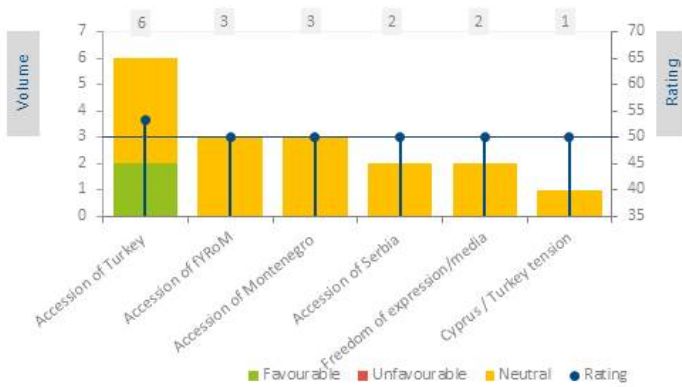
Turkish threat hampers search for oil

French petrol giant Total is expected to abandon its search for oil and gas off Cyprus after failing to find any significant targets for exploratory drilling, Energy Minister George Lakkotrypis said Wednesday, adding *“There will be a final decision next week, as there are contractual obligations”*. The minister said a pull-out would be based on the question of commercial viability and not Turkish threats to prevent Cyprus looking for energy (focusfen.net, BG, 21/1). Cyprus and Turkey's accession process were among the issues discussed today in Brussels when Cyprus Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides met Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn (Capital.gr, GR, 21/1). Johannes Hahn said that without progress on the Cyprus issue Turkey cannot proceed in its bid for accession to the European Union (typos.com.cy, CY, 21/1)

- focusfen.net, BG, 21/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/01/21/360863/frances-total-may-abandon-cyprus-oil-gas-search-minister.html>
- Capital.gr, GR, 21/1, [Link not available]
- typos.com.cy, CY, 21/1, <http://www.typos.com.cy/cat/1/article/10635>

Charts

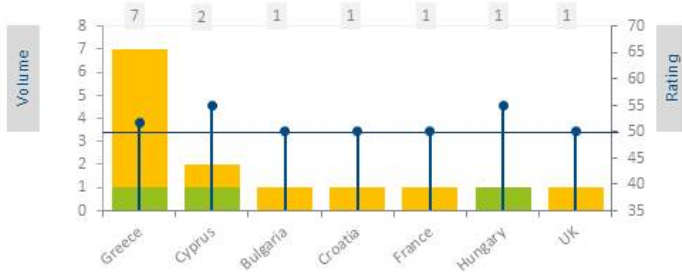
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Volume	14 items
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Favourable %	21.4%
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Neutral %	78.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ioannis Kasoulidis - Cyprus FM	4
Federica Mogherini	1
Donald Tusk - European Council	1
Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC	1
Péter Szijjártó - Hungary FM	1

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