



Key Quotes

Iceland drops EU membership bid. Foreign Minister Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson said he had **"delivered a letter to the Presidency of the Union and the Commission announcing that the government of Iceland had decided at its cabinet meeting last Tuesday that it did not intend to restart accession negotiations with the EU"**. **"Hence, the government considers that Iceland is no longer a candidate country and requests the EU to act in accordance with this from now on,"** he added. However, Mr. Sveinsson stressed the importance of continued strong relations and co-operation between Iceland and the EU, saying Reykjavik wanted to strengthen the ties **"even further"**. (BBC Online, UK, 12/3)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31862988>

Summary

The EP asks once more for Kosovo to be recognised

On Wednesday the European Parliament adopted a report regarding the progress made by Kosovo in 2014. Within the document, the five states which have not recognised Kosovo's independence yet, namely Romania, Greece, Cyprus, Slovakia and Spain, are encouraged to reconsider their decision. A European Parliamentarian from the Group of the Greens, one of the Rapporteurs, claims that the voting of the report on Kosovo's progress, with a wide majority, shows the significant support for Kosovo's European future (Jurnalul National, RO, 12/3). The resolution states that the recognition of Kosovo would further normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia and it would bring Kosovo further to the EU (balkaneu.com, GR, 12/3).

- Jurnalul National, RO, 12/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150312/mi/item_239004785.pdf
- balkaneu.com, GR, 12/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ep-demands-kosovo-fight-corruption-create-special-tribunal/>

Amendments to resolution on Serbia

Croatian MEPs who suggested amendments to the European Parliament regarding the resolution on Serbia, which draw attention to a controversial law on jurisdiction and neighbouring countries for the prosecution of war crimes in all countries created from the former Yugoslavia, feel they have indeed succeeded if the goal was to make it become an important issue in diplomatic circles in the EU, and a topic that they will have to deal with (Jutarnji List, HR, 12/3). Croatian MEPs' initial demand was that Serbia should be prevented from opening the Justice chapter unless it amended the law however, MEP Andrej Plenković considers the amendment that was passed a success, since it asks Serbia to review it not only with the EC, but also with neighbouring countries, which include Croatia (Jutarnji List, HR, 12/3).

- Jutarnji List, HR, 12/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150312/mi/item_239033525.pdf
- Jutarnji List, HR, 12/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150312/mi/item_239033405.pdf

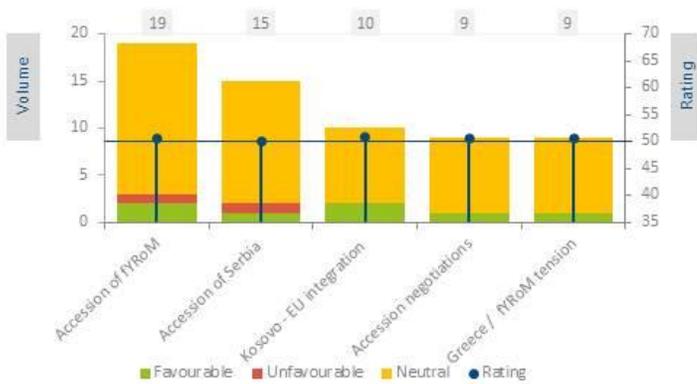
EP asks for the beginning of accession talks with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Plenary session of the European Parliament asked the European Council to set a date for launching accession talks with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia without delay. MEPs also called EC Vice-President Federica Mogherini to come up with new initiatives to end the stalemate over the name issue and facilitate dialogue to end the polarised political climate within the country (Naftemporiki, GR, 12/3). A number of Western officials have voiced their concern over the recent developments in Macedonia which include a tense political battle between the government and the opposition and more widely the European Parliament voiced its concern over the deteriorating situation in the Western Balkans equating to a deepening political polarization. (Novinite.com, BG, 12/3)

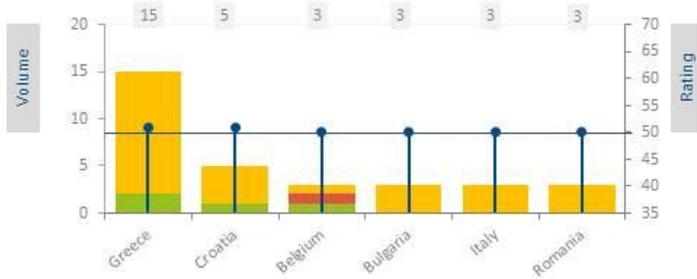
- Naftemporiki, GR, 12/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150312/mi/item_239032893.pdf
- Novinite.com, BG, 12/3, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/167165/EU+NATO+Officials+Raise+Concerns+over+Macedonia+Tension>

Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	36 items
Rating	50.7
Favourable %	13.9%
Unfavourable %	2.8%
Neutral %	18.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski - FYRoM PM	9
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8
Ulrike Lunacek - MEP	6
Federica Mogherini - QUOTED	5
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	4
Ivo Vajgl - MEP	3

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