



Key Quotes

The European Union gave the green light on Monday to a long-awaited pact with Bosnia, a first step towards possible membership of the bloc after years of political and economic stagnation. Foreign ministers of the 28-nation EU said they had agreed to **"proceed with the conclusion and entry into force"** of the SAA. They called on Bosnia's leadership **"to fully uphold its commitments and obligations ... and to remain engaged with the European Union under the renewed approach and maintain the positive momentum by developing an initial agenda for reforms in consultation with the European Union."** (uk.reuters.com, UK, 16/3)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/16/uk-bosnia-eu-pact-idUKKBN0MC1O520150316>

Summary

7,000 Icelanders for EU candidacy

About 7,000 Icelanders protested on Sunday in Reykjavik against their government's pulling of the country's application to join the European Union without a referendum. It was the largest demonstration in Iceland since the 2008 financial meltdown. The government announced on Thursday that Iceland is no longer an EU candidate country (euobserver.com, BE, 16/3). The political opposition in Iceland does not agree with the decision of the country's government to remain outside of the EU. According to the opposition, the Icelandic government does not have the authority to take this decision. In 2009, the then government handed in a request to join the EU, but today's rather Eurosceptic, right-wing government prefers to make agreements with individual EU countries. The present PM Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson had promised a referendum on the matter, but this has never taken place (Financieele Dagblad, NL, 16/3).

- Dernière Heure, BE, 16/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150316/mi/item_239563258.pdf
- euobserver.com, BE, 16/3, <https://euobserver.com/tickers/128000>
- Financieele Dagblad, NL, 16/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150316/mi/item_239520589.pdf

Iceland can afford luxury of withdrawing EU membership bid

An El País (ES, 16/3) leading article reviews the arguments of the Icelandic government for withdrawing its application for European Union membership, saying the claim that the interests of the country are best secured outside the EU is precisely what any foreign observer of the Greece-EU relations or analyst of the bailouts of Portugal or Ireland would think. But we should not be misled – Iceland can propose to remain autonomous with chances of succeeding because it is a small country. But it also warns that it does not want its economic and trade relationship with Europe to cool down. It wants to be outside, but close. It can afford that luxury.

- El País, ES, 16/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150316/mi/item_239552017.pdf

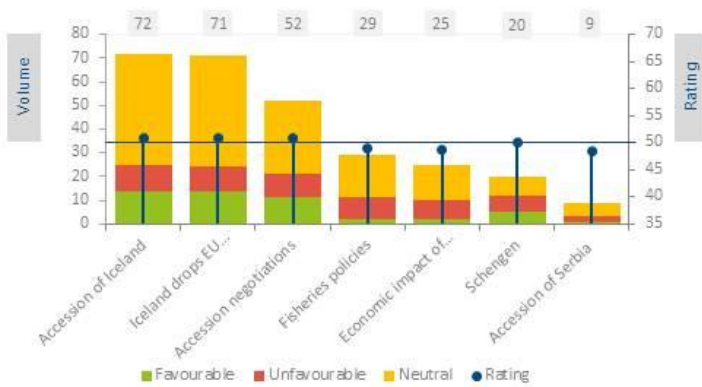
Wiretapping scandal

Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, rallied supporters on Sunday against a growing surveillance scandal challenging his nine-year rule and dismissed opposition calls for a snap election. Gruevski's conservative government is coming under increasing domestic and international pressure to address a wave of accusations levelled by the opposition that it orchestrated a huge, illegal wire-tapping operation targeting 20,000 people. The West is watching closely, given the country's hopes of one day joining NATO and the European Union. Putting up a show of force Gruevski rallied around 10,000 supporters in a packed sports hall in the capital Skopje, telling them he had no intention of giving in to opposition demands for a transitional government as a prelude to early parliamentary elections (Daily Mail, UK, 15/3).

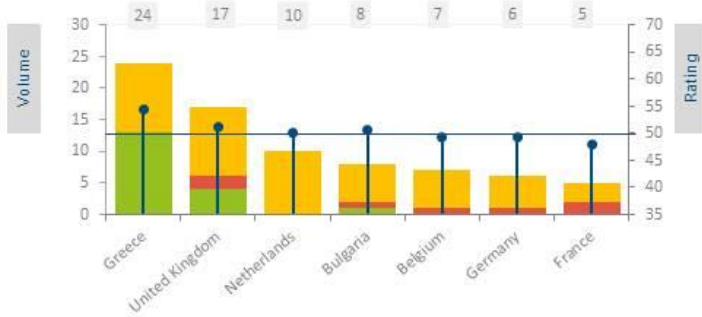
- Daily Mail, UK, 15/3, http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2995846/Macedonian-PM-hits-surveillance-scandal.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Charts

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



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



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

Volume	97 items
Rating	51.1
Favourable %	21.6%
Unfavourable %	12.4%
Neutral %	66.0%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson - Iceland FM	33
Maja Kocijancic - spokesperson for Mogherini	15
Margaritis Schinas - Chief Spokesperson	11
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	8
Jean-Claude Juncker – President EC	8
Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson - Iceland PM	7

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