



Key Quotes

Brandon Tensley, a Master Philosophy candidate in European Politics & Society at the University of Oxford, writes that **"Joining the EU could put Bosnia on the right track. This sort of soft power has always been key to the EU's diplomatic power of persuasion, whether formally or informally. Take the 1980s and 2004 enlargements. They show how preparing for EU membership can help poorer nations, such as by increasing per capita GDP, and leverage systemic change"**. The author adds that **"Joining the EU is about binding one's country to a strong and proven system of values that can underpin a fragile democracy."** (opendemocracy.net, UK, 18/3)

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/brandon-tensley/bosnia-moving-on-from-dayton-agreement>

Summary

Fishing quotas and Icelandic membership

The Icelandic population and political representatives do not want to accept the decision of the Government of Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson to withdraw its application for membership in the European Union. At the weekend several thousand people protested and the opposition claims that this step was not authorized by a referendum as promised. However *"Iceland's interests would be better served outside the European Union"* said Foreign Minister Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson." (E15, CZ, 18/3). The rejection of membership is mainly a dispute about mackerel, UKIP MEP Ray Finch commented adding *"the new Icelandic government had a choice between the EU and a heap load of mackerel, and they chose the mackerel. I love their great choice. It demonstrates two things - that countries can work in the economic interests of their citizens and that EU expansion is no longer inevitable"* (E15, CZ, 18/3).

- E15, CZ, 18/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150318/mi/item_239858161.pdf
- E15, CZ, 18/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150318/mi/item_239858171.pdf

Tension between Serbia and Croatia

Croatian MEP Andrej Plenković said in an interview *"Our amendment regarding Serbia is not an obstacle on Serbia's path to the EU"*. He explained that he considered the contesting of the controversial Serbian law on Law on Organization and Jurisdiction of Government Authorities in Prosecuting Perpetrators of War Crimes a huge success, as it was the first time that any EU institution had internationalised the question of Serbia proceeding this way. He saw as the biggest proof of their success, the Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić's statement during his visit to Zagreb, where he said that Serbia was willing to review the law. He emphasised that Croatian intention was not to block Serbian accession negotiations as Slovenia did with Croatia (Vecernji List, HR, 18/3).

- Vecernji List, HR, 18/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150318/mi/item_239868427.pdf

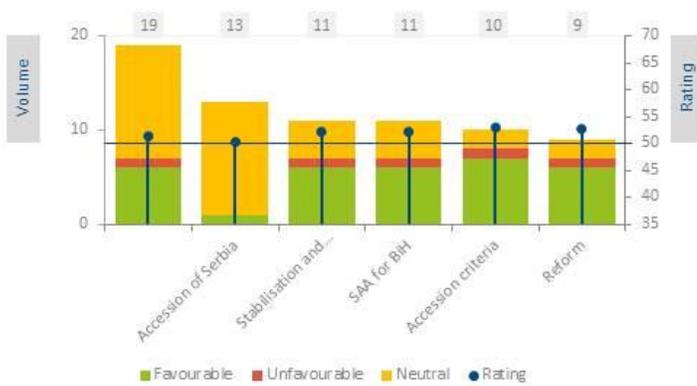
War crimes arrests in Serbia

Serbia arrested seven men on Wednesday suspected of taking part in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia. *"This is the first such case involving people directly suspected of taking part in the Srebrenica massacre... There are other suspects in Serbia and neighbouring countries and we are after them as well"* Bruno Vekarić, Serbia's deputy war crimes prosecutor told Reuters (uk.reuters.com, UK, 18/3). Wednesday's arrests marked the first time Serbia has gone after those who did the actual killing. The arrests of Karadzic and Mladic largely unblocked Serbia's bid to join the European Union, but Belgrade remains under pressure from the West to hold accountable those behind the war crimes committed during Yugoslavia's bloody collapse (Daily Mail, UK, 18/3).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 18/3, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/18/uk-serbia-warcrimes-idUKKBNOME0QZ20150318>
- Daily Mail, UK, 18/3, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3000177/Serbia-makes-arrests-suspected-Srebrenica-gunmen.html>

Charts

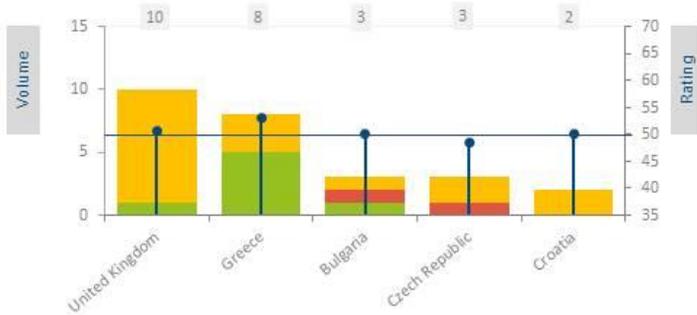
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Volume	30 items
Rating	51.3
Favourable %	30%
Unfavourable %	6.7%
Neutral %	63.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Federica Mogherini	10
Vesna Pusić, Croatia FM	4
Dragan Čović - Bosnian Croat politician	3
Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović - President Croatia	2
Mladen Ivanić - Bosnian Serb politician	2

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