



## Key Quotes

EU backs Montenegro in spite of shortcomings. **"Montenegro has submitted very timely its economic report,"** said the Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn, and deserves to be backed in its further progress towards EU accession. **"The EU remains committed to support the European and Euroatlantic future of Montenegro,"** added EU Council president Donald Tusk. (neurope.eu, BE, 15/4)

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/eu-backs-montenegro-spite-shortcomings>

Croatia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić announced further support for Bosnia and Herzegovina on its path to EU membership, encouraging its authorities to implement necessary reforms. **"Our common project is the progress of countries in the region, in this case Bosnia and Herzegovina, toward reforms and membership in the European Union,"** said Pusić who arrived in Sarajevo for her first official visit to the country after its new government was recently formed (dalje.com, HR, 15/4)

<http://dalje.com/en-world/croatian-fm-visits-sarajevo-ahead-of-eu-ministerial-meeting-on-bih/541766>

## Summary

### Controversy with Turkey

The European Parliament is to urge Turkey to "come to terms with its past" on the "Armenian Genocide" 100 years after it took place. The joint text - agreed by parliament groups on Tuesday ahead of a vote in Brussels on Wednesday - also calls on "those EU member states that have not yet done so and EU institutions to recognise it". It says Turkey should "start a genuinely transparent public debate with a view to recognising the genocide" and also urges Turkey to "normalise relations ... with Armenia". Selim Yenel, Turkey's EU envoy, told EUobserver on Tuesday that: "The EP is acting as prosecutor, judge and jury on this issue and without dialogue with the parties concerned. During the events of 1915 everybody suffered, but Turkey does not play the blame game" adding "We've always looked toward the future in a positive manner and still extend our hand for reconciliation. However this hand has been turned down at every opportunity" (euobserver.com, BE, 15/4). Ricardo Franco Levi in the Corriere della Sera (IT, 15/4) notes that the Italian government was "extremely cautious" in expressing an opinion on the controversy between Turkey and the Pope on the "Armenian genocide".

- euobserver.com, BE, 15/4, <https://euobserver.com/foreign/128325>
- Corriere della Sera, IT, 15/4, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150415/mi/item\\_244038077.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150415/mi/item_244038077.pdf)

### Ankara no longer seen as a safe pair of hands

Four years ago, Turkey was regarded as a linchpin of stability in the Middle East and was counted a regional insider, admired for its high-growth economy and ostensible success in pioneering neo-Islamist politics attuned to a modern democracy. It all seems a long time ago. But a relationship as dense as that of the EU with Turkey cannot end there. Sinan Ülgen, head of the liberal Edam think-tank in Istanbul, speculates about "a deep relationship short of membership that has still to be devised, a new model of association for those states with more to contribute than, say, Norway". That might catch on in Turkey, especially if another member state such as Britain were to exit the EU and recalibrate its relations. Turkey would not be alone (Financial Times, UK, 15/4).

- Financial Times, UK, 15/4, [link not available]

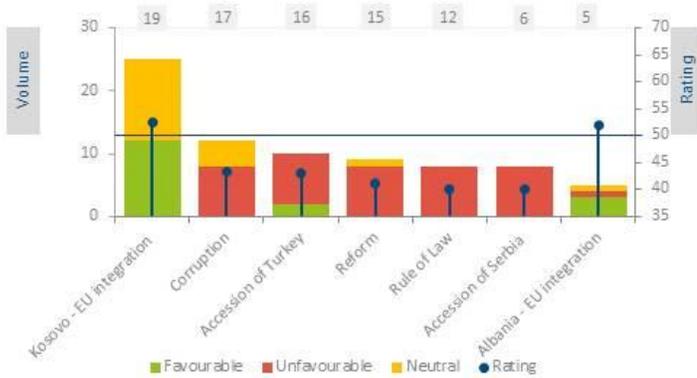
### The machine to expand the EU is still operating on full power

L'Echo (BE, 15/4) reports that Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Đukanovic is in Brussels on Wednesday to talk with Johannes Hahn about the admission of his country to the EU. On Tuesday the European Parliament supported the admission process of Albania. After the admission of Croatia, six other countries of the Balkan region "need a European perspective" says the European Commission.

- L'Echo, BE, 15/4, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150415/mi/item\\_244056082.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150415/mi/item_244056082.pdf)

# Charts

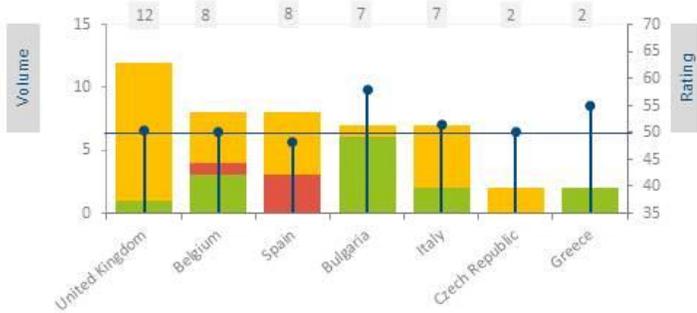
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	13
Federica Mogherini	13
Pope Francis	12
Maria Bamieh - EULEX	11
Knut Fleckenstein - MEP	8
Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović - President Croatia	8
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - Turkey FM	4

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