



Key Quotes

Beyond the headscarf: Turkey's women struggle for equality. Turkey is gearing up for a general election on 7 June and women are pushing to make gender equality an issue. Activists are calling for more female participation in politics and working life. Gulsum Kav, from the campaign group We Will Stop Murders of Women, says that politicians - overwhelmingly male - are dragging their feet on pressing issues. **"The laws to protect women are in place but they are not implemented,"** she told the BBC. **"Police and the judiciary are resisting and there is no real political will in Turkey to put pressure on them."** (BBC Online, UK, 3/6) <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32982780>

Summary

Political dead-lock in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is lifted

The European Commission has called on politicians in Skopje to keep the promises made during talks with EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn. According to Hahn, the meeting resulted in an agreement that snap elections should take place by end-April 2016. MIA news agency reported that a number of reforms have to be prepared and carried out before any early election takes place, including an amended election code, cleared voting lists and measures to ensure that different communities are treated with respect. In a statement to journalists following an eight-hour-long meeting, Hahn said there had been an agreement with heads of the four major political parties, including Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski to arrange a kind of transitional period. Local media reports suggest that a transitional government has to be agreed within days if a new vote is to take place next year. The statement also implies moves by the EU Commission to "apply the methodology usually used when we negotiate chapters 23 and 24" to boost the independence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's judiciary. (Novinite.com, BG, 3/6). Details of who will oversee the elections and who will stand at the head of the government until the elections will be discussed at another meeting scheduled for next week in Brussels. According to Commissioner Hahn talks were constructive (focus-news.net, 3/6).

- Novinite.com, BG, 3/6, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/169007/EU+Calls+on+Macedonia+Leaders+to+Stick+to+Commitments>
- focus-news.net, 3/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/03/374218/after-9-hours-negotiations-macedonian-govt-opposition-agreed-early-elections-on-april-2016-roundup.html>

Swedish support for Albania

Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström assured Albania of Sweden's further support for the EU integration process of Albania and the whole Balkan region. Wallström made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Albanian Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati. She welcomed the measures taken by Albania to address the phenomenon of asylum seeking and encouraged the further intensification of cooperation between respective institutions in both countries (Balkans.com, UK, 3/6).

- Balkans.com, UK, 3/6, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=204143>

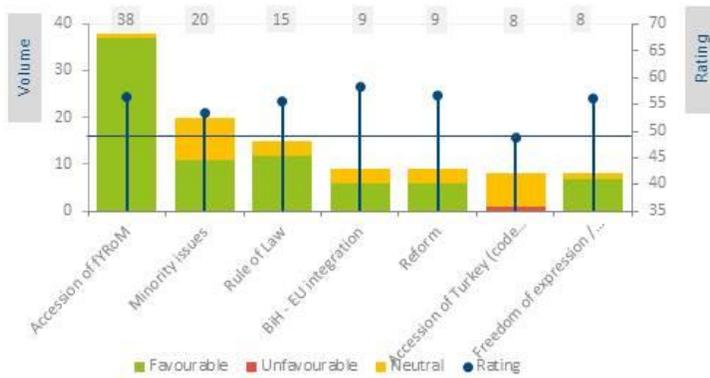
Hope is with the Kurds

Turkey's elections on Sunday are about the 10% needed by Kurdish party HDP to get into parliament. If the party does not succeed, the ruling AKP will achieve the majority needed to change the constitution, which is President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's major goal. Following the democratic reforms and economic liberalisation in his first two mandate periods; since 2011 his megalomania has taken over Dagens Nyheter (SE, 3/6) concludes in an unsigned editorial. And with this megalomania Turkey's problems have grown. Turkey's initial economic growth helped him to election victories and a dangerous concentration of power that is suffocating opportunity. The biggest danger of all is, however, Erdoğan's arrogance.

- Dagens Nyheter, SE, 3/6, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150603/mi/item_251259246.pdf

Charts

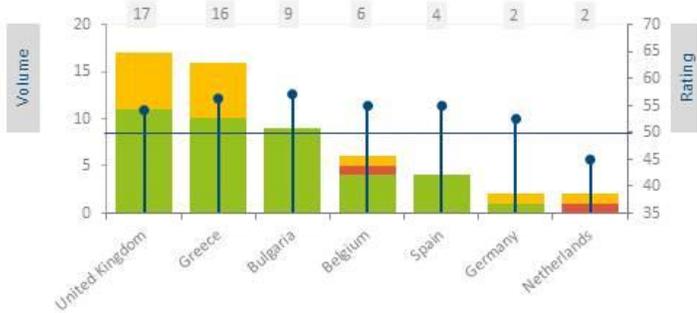
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg | 41 |
| Nikola Gruevski – PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 24 |
| Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs | 9 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President | 7 |
| Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia | 3 |
| Manolis Kefalogiannis - MEP | 3 |

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