



Weekly Media Report

27 – 30 January

International Affairs

Sochi Olympics – the symbol of the Russian problems – db.lv (LV), 30 January 2014

Winter Olympics in Sochi was supposed to be V. Putin's main achievement in his Presidency but it could happen that on the contrary – it becomes a symbol of all the problems Russia has to face. There are two weeks left till the opening of the Olympics, but it is already the most expensive Olympic games in the history of both – winter and summer Olympics. As well, it is believed to be the most criminal case in the history of Russia. Esquire magazine has made an interesting intellectual exercise, and calculated that with the billions invested in the road to Krasnaja Polana, it could be covered with a centimeter thick layer of caviar beluga.

<http://www.db.lv/foto-video/foto/var-gadities-ka-soci-klust-par-krievijas-problemu-simbolu-408914>

Income inequality gap is bigger than ever. Latvia is still in the leader position – db.lv (LV), 30 January 2014

The main theme of the World Economic Forum 2014 held in Davos, Switzerland was the income inequality in the world, which has grown bigger in the last hundred years. Data of different researches conclude that 85 wealthiest people in the world owns the same amount of wealth as the whole part of the poorest population (more than 3,5 billion people). Many economists emphasize that the inequality gap grows bigger mainly at the expense of the middle class. Although Gini index (represents the income distribution of a nation's residents) has lowered in Latvia in the last two years, it is still the highest index among the EU member states.

<http://www.db.lv/sabiedriba/nevienlidzibas-skeres-pasaule-veras-plasak-latvija-aizvien-lideros-409124>

European Affairs

Ukraine's PM and government resign – BBC (UK), 28 January 2014

Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich has accepted the resignation of the prime minister and his cabinet amid continuing anti-government protests. Mykola Azarov had offered to step down as prime minister to create "social and political compromise". The move came after the Ukrainian parliament voted overwhelmingly to annul controversial anti-protest laws.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25932352>

Ukraine's opposition furious about the parliament's passed law providing amnesty to protesters detained during recent protests – db.lv (LV), 30 January 2014

Ukraine's parliament has passed a law providing amnesty to people detained during recent protests with a condition that all the protesters leave the government buildings. Opposition considers that parliament has just passed a law on hostages. Oleh Tyahnybok, leader of the far-right group Svoboda (Freedom) and a key figure in the protests said: "The authorities have themselves recognised that they are taking hostages as terrorists do, so they can trade with them." BBC's correspondent says Mr. Klitschko knows the protesters will not go home unless President Yanukovich stands down and calls elections, and signs the long-awaited trade deal with the EU.

<http://www.db.lv/foto-video/foto/ukrainas-opoziciju-vel-vairak-sanikno-parlamenta-pienemtie-noteikumi-protestetaju-amnestijai-409137>

National Affairs

Survey on Kosovo-Serbia-Albania relations unveiled – (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy), 27.01.2014

The results of a survey jointly performed by the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), and Albania's Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) were presented in an event held today in Tirana. The survey's findings relate to the Brussels dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, the future of relations within the Belgrade-Pristina-Tirana triangle, and human security in each community. According to the survey's findings, the majority of citizens in Serbia and Albania support the continuation of the Belgrade - Pristina dialogue even if it is not considered a condition for the two countries' EU accession, while a majority of the Kosovo population supports the dialogue only if it is considered a condition for this purpose. The survey was based on a common questionnaire and conducted in Serbia, Kosovo and Albania during the first three weeks of October 2013. The survey covered representative samples of citizens. In Serbia, a total of 1,200 citizens were interviewed, including a sub-sample of 200 citizens in Southern Serbia (the municipalities of Preshevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja). The survey in Kosovo encompassed 1,119 respondents including 100 ethnic Serbs residing in Northern Kosovo. In Albania, 1,100 citizens were interviewed. <http://www.bezbednost.org/All-publications/5334/The-Citizens-on-the-SerbianAlbanian-Relations.shtml>

Serbian President announces early parliamentary election – (Top Channel TV), Serbia 03.01.2014

Serbia is going to have its early parliamentary elections on 16 March. According to President Tomislav Nikolic, the elections should show tolerance and have a silent campaign. During last two years, Serbia has had positive changes. He also thanked all state employees for having been involved in achieving a positive dialogue with EU. "It has never been imagined that we could establish a dialogue with Prishtina", Nikolic declared. He continued his statements in a press conference that his country is going to have painful and crucial reforms in coming years. Nikolic promised to implement all agreements with Kosovo. <http://www.top-channel.tv/artikull.php?id=271764>

Economy