



Key Quotes

"Italy strongly supports the different levels of integration of the Western Balkans into the EU," said Italy's Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni, during the closing press conference of the summit of Foreign Ministers of Member States of the Central European Initiative (CEI). **"We do believe,"** Gentiloni added, **that the different levels of integration in the EU "are essential from the standpoint of both economy and politics. The integration process can lead different parties, which fought against one another for centuries, into cooperation: this is what the European experience shows, and this experience can give each country a chance to make a political change"** (ansa.it, IT, 15/6)

https://www.ansa.it/nuova_europa/en/news/sections/news/2015/06/15/eu-gentiloni-we-strongly-support-balkans-integration_3f11d498-7d8b-4b9a-96db-ff1f9459fb0b.html

Summary

EU must not turn away from Turkey

The EU and Turkey are important strategic partners and it is in the interest of both to have close and effective cooperation. With this in mind, Parliament has adopted its annual report on Turkey with a large majority. But there is also clear concern in Parliament regarding certain developments in Turkey. These are issues at the core of the accession process, such as the independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. With a record-high turnout of 86% the people have elected the most inclusive and representative Parliament in Turkey's modern history (theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 15/6). In an article for Dagens Industri (SE, 15/6), Sweden's former ambassador to Turkey Michael Sahlin writes the opposition to President Erdoğan's power ambitions opens the way for the re-establishment of a state governed by the rule of law. How this uncertainty will be handled depends greatly on how President Erdoğan reacts. Will he accept a more ceremonial role or continue to claim absolute power? It is likely to take some time to sort out.

- theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 15/6, <https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/opinion/eu-must-not-turn-away-turkey>
- Dagens Industri, SE, 15/6, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150615/mi/item_253001988.pdf

Business climate good in Serbia

Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić received the Dutch Ambassador, Laurent Stokvis, who was on his farewell visit. Vučić said that political relations between the two countries are very good and that there were great opportunities for economic cooperation. Stokvis stressed the importance of economic reforms initiated by the current government, creating a business environment attractive to foreign investors (Balkans.com, UK, 15/6). Almost without exception, companies that come to Serbia are surprised because they find the situation to be far better than Serbia's image in developed countries, Foreign Investors Council President Ove Fredheim said, adding that promotional activities are needed in order to highlight the positive reforms. *"Progress has been made in the alignment to European regulations and Serbia is ready to open chapters this year in its accession negotiations with the EU"*, Fredheim said (Balkans.com, UK, 15/6).

- Balkans.com, UK, 15/6, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=204453>
- Balkans.com, UK, 15/6, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=204466>

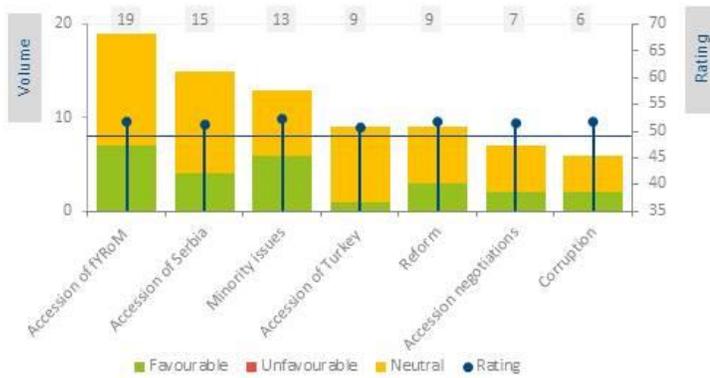
Serbians in Kosovo

Gracanica is a Serbian island floating in the centre of independent Kosovo. Sanctuary for 8,000 residents who live so isolated from their Albanian neighbours. Samuel Zbogor, the EU's special representative in Kosovo, understands the frustration *"for all they have suffered, from the repression of Milosevic to the lack of visas for travel to the EU"*. There are two Kosovos. One official, seems peaceful, the other erupts from time to time to remind us that nationalism is dead and ethnic hatred can be revived (El Mundo, ES, 15/6).

- El Mundo, ES, 15/6, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150615/mi/item_253011998.pdf

Charts

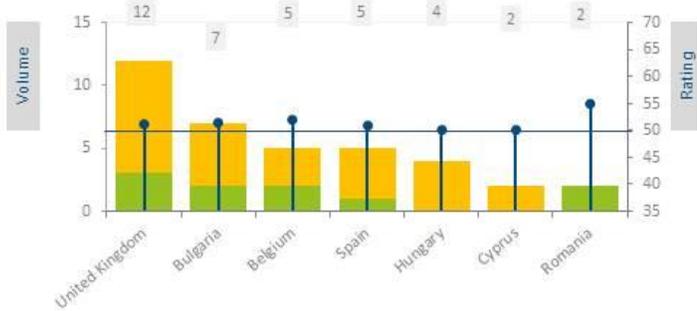
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	13
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	6
Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria	5
Ali Ahmeti- politician former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5
Viktor Orban - Hungarian Prime Minister	4
Maroš Šefčovič (VP - Energy)	3

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