



## Key Quotes

Albania goes to the polls in local elections on Sunday in a crucial test of the Balkan country's fragile democracy as it pushes to join the EU. **"More than the results, the real importance of these elections are the values of the democracy that should win,"** parliamentary speaker Ilir Meta told AFP. Prime Minister Edi Rama has painted the elections as a chance to **"give a new boost to economic development projects"** (eubusiness.com, UK, 16/6)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/albania-vote.11zs/>

## Summary

### Meeting of the Central European Initiative

The Central European Initiative (CEI) should focus on accelerating EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and investments needed to achieve energy security, the Hungarian Foreign Minister said at a CEI ministerial meeting in Ohrid in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Accelerating EU enlargement to the Western Balkans would not only generate economic results, but it would also help halt the Islamic State's recruitment of foreign fighters, Péter Szijjártó told news agency MTI (hungarytoday.hu, HU, 16/6). The main topics on the agenda of the CEI meeting related to regional development in South-Eastern Europe, the role and activity of the CEI and broad regional inter-connectivity. Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Bogdan Aurescu underscored the importance of regional cooperation (balkaneu.com, GR, 16/6). Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki, called on all countries that have achieved various degrees of Euro-integration to have a time framework for complete integration ensured. "Cooperation between CEI member states needs to continue so that we could all more decisively strengthen regional cooperation" he commented (focus-news.net, BG, 16/6).

- hungarytoday.hu, HU, 16/6, <http://hungarytoday.hu/news/foreign-minister-integration-western-balkans-key-central-europes-energy-security-32965>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 16/6, <http://www.balkaneu.com/romania-central-european-initiative-support-eu-prospects-countries-western-balkans/>
- focus-news.net, BG, 16/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/16/375494/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-countries-in-region-want-deadlines-for-eu-membership.html>

### The Balkans call on Brussels

In an essay in Die Welt (DE, 16/6), political scientist Dominique Moïsi writes about the recent problems in the Balkan states. Fights between the police and Albanian militants in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led to several deaths and he suggests the region threatens Europe's stability. He recounts a recent visit in Belgrade where Serbian people criticised EU, NATO and OSCE and "the West's blindness." According to Mr Moïsi, Jean-Claude Juncker's decision to abolish the post of European Commissioner for Enlargement is highly symbolic and motivates many to start searching for an alternative model to the European Union.

- Die Welt, DE, 16/6, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150616/mi/item\\_253153035.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150616/mi/item_253153035.pdf)

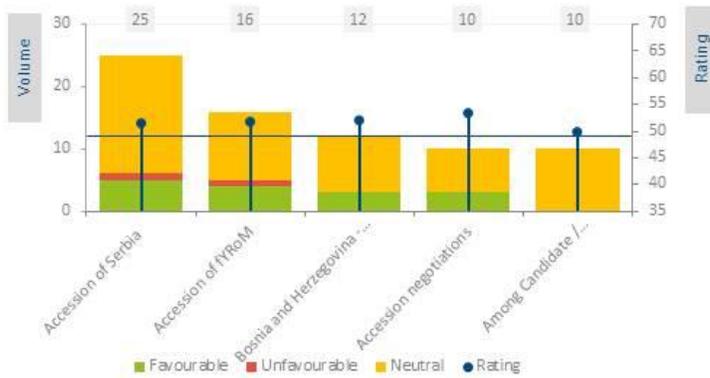
### Struggle for power

The behaviour of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) could be seen as a struggle for power; Zoran Zaev, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia commented "the DUI leader Ali Ahmeti said at the meeting in Brussels if we did not reach an agreement he would leave the government. We did not agree in Brussels and returned to Skopje and he is still in the ruling coalition. This indicates obviously that DUI people are incriminated and do not want to leave the government. If DUI leaves the ruling coalition, Nikola Gruevski will not have a majority and this would be a good step towards the formation of a new cabinet to organise elections" Zaev commented (focus-news.net, BG, 16/6).

- focus-news.net, BG, 16/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/16/375505/mkd-macedonia-ali-ahmeti-promised-in-brussels-to-leave-govt-didnt-do-it-says-zaev.html>

# Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Highlights**  
by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	37 items
Rating	51.9
Favourable %	24.3%
Unfavourable %	2.7%
Neutral %	73%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	6
Nikola Poposki - European Affairs Minister former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6
Bakir Izetbegović - Politician BiH	6
Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria	5

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