



Key Quotes

Serbia is counting on Italy's support during its application to enter the European Union, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said. **"Italy is the first trading partner for Serbia and our best friend,"** Dacic added (ansa.it, IT, 22/6).

http://www.ansa.it/english/news/expo2015/2015/06/22/serbia-counts-on-italy-for-eu-dacic_fe40e63d-4261-4fa2-bf53-3d2b69684903.html

The behaviour of Serbian Minister Aleksandar Vulin at the Jadovno commemoration on Sunday is not a bilateral issue but a matter of manners, Croatia's Foreign and European Affairs Minister Vesna Pusić said in Luxembourg on Monday. **"That's not a bilateral issue but a question of manners. That member of the Serbian government has had some very unusual escapades, and this one is below any level of civility. Croatia doesn't need to and won't react every time someone says something, but it would certainly be good for Serbia not to allow that sort of reputation to be spread about it because such conduct is very inappropriate for any decent country,"** said Pusić, who was attending an EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting (dalje.com, HR, 22/6).

<http://dalje.com/en-croatia/fm--vulins-statement-concerns-manners-not-a-bilateral-matter/547966>

Summary

Solution to the political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia?

Negotiations between ruling party and opposition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are in their final stage. The composition and mandate of the interim government are in the process of being agreed. Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski claimed there would be elections next April but it is still unclear if there will be an agreement on a government to organise elections by June 29th. According to unofficial information, the Prime Minister's party accepts the formation of an interim cabinet but its mandate has to start after the New Year. It is still unclear if this means Gruevski's stepping down. On the other hand, the opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia insists on the government's mandate starting at least 6 months before the elections (Focus-fen.net, BG, 22/6). The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Interior minister, Mitko Cavkov declared today that there's no need for an international investigation into the problems in Kumanovo. Opposition parties have demanded an international inquiry (Balkaneu.com, GR, 22/6).

- Focus-fen.net, BG, 22/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/22/376046/24-vesti-macedonia-negotiations-between-ruling-opposition-drawing-to-end.htm>
- Balkaneu.com, GR, 22/6, <http://www.balkaneu.com/theres-international-investigation-kumanovo-fyroms-interior-minister/>

Albanian election

The Albanian opposition condemned what it called voting irregularities in local elections Sunday seen as a test of the Balkan country's fragile democracy as it pushes to join the European Union. The first official results from the vote to elect mayors and councillors in 61 municipalities were not expected until Monday, but the main opposition Democratic Party (PD) was quick to cry foul after polling stations closed at 1700 GMT. **"There have been irregularities, manipulations as well as pressure and threats against voters from the right"** senior PD politician Edi Paloka said in a statement, while also claiming a clear win for his party (EU Business, UK, 22/6). The process of ballot counting in Albania is coming to an end and so far, the majority of 61 municipalities has been won by the left wing majority under the logo of the Alliance for European Albania coalition led by Prime Minister Edi Rama and speaker of Parliament, Ilir Meta. This governing coalition has won the largest municipalities in the country (Balkaneu.com, GR, 22/6).

- EU Business, UK, 22/6, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/albania-election.1267>
- Balkaneu.com, GR, 22/6, <http://www.balkaneu.com/left-wing-majority-takes-largest-municipalities-albania/>

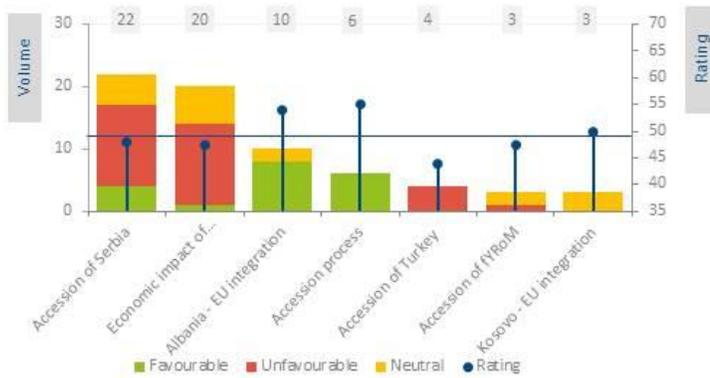
Serbia Kosovo Meeting

Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo – Aleksandar Vučić and Isa Mustafa – are to hold a second round of negotiations, the Serbian online news edition Blic writes. Vučić and Mustafa are expected to sign agreements on concrete matters. Technical dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina will continue before both Prime Ministers' meeting. Talks will be held on telecommunications, the energy sector, and the Association of Serbian Municipalities in Kosovo (focus-fen.net, BG, 22/6).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 22/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/22/376051/blic-eu-expects-serbia-kosovo-pm-to-sign-concrete-agreements.html>

Charts

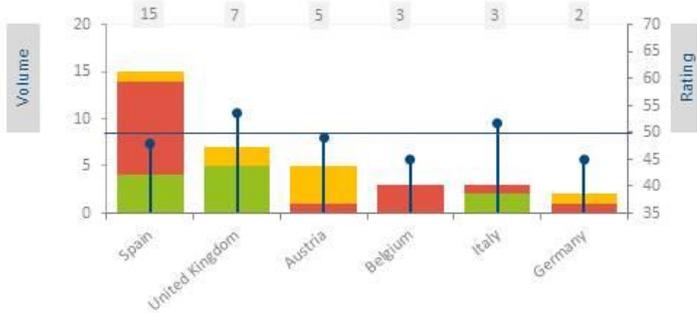
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Volume	38 items
Rating	49.1
Favourable %	31.6%
Unfavourable %	47.4%
Neutral %	21%

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by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	14
Viktor Orban - Hungarian Prime Minister	10
Charles Michel - PM Belgium	3
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	2

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