



## Key Quotes

The ruling left-wing coalition of Prime Minister Edi Rama won local elections in Albania, according to the results announced Tuesday by the electoral commission. **"These elections confirmed huge support to the ruling coalition and provide an impetus to continue reforms already launched,"** Rama said Tuesday. **"The local elections were the most free and fair, the best that Albania organised in its history,"** Rama said (Yahoo!, UK, 23/6).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/ruling-left-coalition-wins-albanian-local-elections-195604082.html#GfdGsNz>

## Summary

### Foreign Ministers discuss former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Foreign ministers of the EU member states discussed the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Monday. The meeting was attended by the EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and later by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The conclusions drawn will be passed by the European Council on Friday. (focus-news.net, BG, 23/6). Croatian Foreign and European Affairs Minister Vesna Pusić said after the meeting *"the important thing is, that despite all the weird and dramatic events in the country recently this hasn't turned into an ethnic conflict, at least for now. It's a problem the EU can solve on its own, which is why all member states, notably those from the region, and Croatia is certainly among them, should work together with Macedonia"* (Dalje.com, HR, 23/6).

- focus-news.net, BG, 23/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/23/376131/vecer-will-macedonia-lose-ecs-recommendation-for-starting-eu-membership-negotiations.html>
- Dalje.com, HR, 23/6, <http://dalje.com/en-croatia/pusic-says-eu-should-work-with-macedonia-to-solve-crisis/547988>

### Road ahead for Montenegro

*"After the adoption of legislation on the fight against corruption and the reform of the judiciary, we now must see their implementation"* said European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn, after the sixth meeting of the EU-Montenegro Association Council in Luxembourg. Hahn stressed that accession talks to the European Union in must go *"hand in hand with progress on the rule of law"* and implementation of necessary reforms for the European Commission remains the most difficult issue. On the overall situation of the European integration process Edgars Rinkēvičs, the Latvian foreign minister for the EU rotating presidency, said *"we have opened two important negotiation chapters: one on financial services and one on trans-European connection networks"*. Montenegro in total has opened 20 negotiation chapters out of a total of 35 with two chapters already temporarily closed explained Rinkēvičs (ansamed.it, IT, 23/6).

- ansamed.it, IT, 23/6, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2015/06/23/montenegro-eu-now-we-must-see-implementation-of-reforms\\_603eed7d-38f9-4478-9abd-78ed2646de06.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2015/06/23/montenegro-eu-now-we-must-see-implementation-of-reforms_603eed7d-38f9-4478-9abd-78ed2646de06.html)

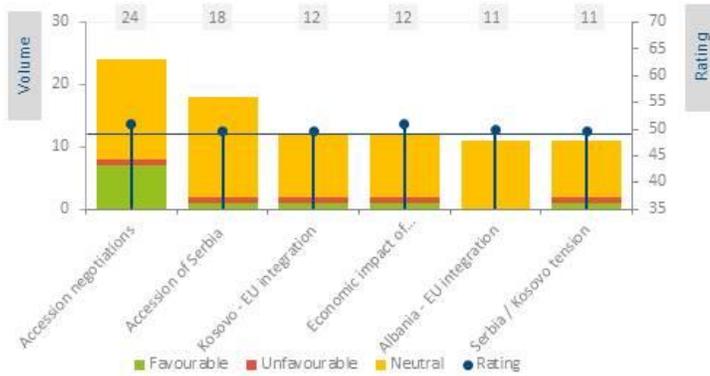
### Report on Albania shows improvement

The Freedom House report *"Countries in Transition"* says that in the general ranking of the 7 Balkan countries, only Bosnia and Kosovo are ranked behind Albania. It says the judicial system has not yet demonstrated that it can prosecute senior level officials, investigative journalism is weak and is influenced by organized crime which continues to be widespread. However, the Freedom House report suggests that Albania was the only country in the Balkan that marked an improvement in the level of democracy in general compared to the previous year (balkaneu.com, GR, 23/6).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 23/6, <http://www.balkaneu.com/judicial-system-albania-doesnt-investigate-senior-officials-freedom-house/>

# Charts

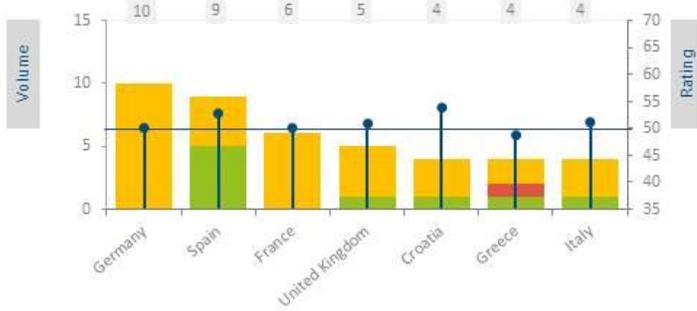
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	50 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	20%
Unfavourable %	4%
Neutral %	76%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	8
Sigmar Gabriel - Economics Minister Germany	7
Edi Rama - Albania PM	6
Isa Mustafa - Prime Minister of Kosovo	6
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	5
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	2

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

**Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.**