



Key Quotes

Serbia has denounced Hungary's insistence on building a border fence to stop the flow of illegal migrants and urged the European Union to say whether it will tolerate new man-made divisions on its territory. **"Europe must decide whether the time of building walls belongs to the past or to the future,"** Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said Thursday. "I thought the Berlin Wall has fallen, but now new walls are being constructed," he added, referencing the wall that divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989 (yahoo!, UK, 25/6).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbia-denounces-hungarys-determination-border-fence-131757469.html#OmkCP8o>

Summary

Reform in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On Tuesday the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia adopted a plan for reforms based on the recommendations in the agreement accepted on June 2nd, which was signed by the leaders of the four biggest political parties in the country with the mediation of the EU. The reforms cover several fields, such as the supremacy of the law, justice, freedoms, elections legislation and fight against corruption and organised crime. *"We are working to meet the need and interests of all citizens, as well as for the development of European standards, so as to launch the EU accession talks. Apart from the current reforms, this a concrete, broad and ambitious plan, which I believe will give the needed progress"* Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski said (focus-news.net, BG, 25/6).

- focus-news.net, BG, 25/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/25/376338/vecer-macedonia-govt-continues-implementing-june-2-agreement-says-pm.html>

Does Turkey still want to be European?

On 14th April 1987 Turkey filed its application to join the European Economic Community. The country then waited until 1999 to achieve candidate status at the European Council Meeting in Helsinki. Today the country has still not seen its application succeed and we should ask whether the desire for Europe is still relevant? To answer the question we can quote the Turkish economist Yusuf Işık who commented *"The recent parliamentary elections offered a framework for Turkey to accelerate reforms and could put Turkey in the way of joining the European Union. This requires, together with a more positive attitude of certain EU members and in current EU thinking vis-à-vis the accession process of Turkey"* (LaTribune, FR, 25/6).

- LaTribune, FR, 25/6, <http://www.latribune.fr/economie/international/la-turquie-a-t-elle-encore-envie-d-etre-europeenne-486160.html>

Bosnia and Herzegovina chairs Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Chairman of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, Mladen Ivanic, addressed on Wednesday the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on its session in Strasbourg, saying that Bosnia and Herzegovina is chairing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for the first time in its history. *"We started our Chairmanship a little over a month ago determined to perform our duties with the utmost responsibility and dedication. We cannot promise to be the best Chairmanship ever, but we can promise to do the best we can"* Ivanic said in his speech. He added that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not ideal and there is still a lot to be done, adding that the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is also an opportunity to underline the great progress the Region of South East Europe has achieved over the past two decades (balkaneu.com, GR, 24/6).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 24/6, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ivanic-addressed-parliamentary-assembly-council-europe/>

Charts

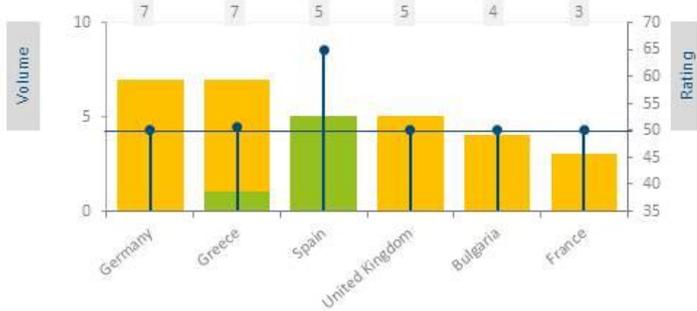
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikos Kotzias - FM Greece	12
Nikola Poposki - FYROM European Affairs	11
Viktor Orban - Hungarian Prime Minister - QUOTED	5
Nikola Gruevski - FYROM PM	3
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	3

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