



Key Quotes

European institutions launched a new file on energy connectivity in Western Balkans to increase physical interconnection and react to the cancellation of the South Stream project. **“Today we are opening a new file on energy connectivity. This not only covers the physical connectivity between energy systems, but also the connectivity between energy markets”** Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, said on Thursday (naturalgaseurope.com, UK, 2/7).

<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/interconnection-between-serbia-bulgaria-main-priority-says-eu-commissioner-hahn-24466>

Summary

The EU has tragically failed the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In a guest article for Die Presse, (AT, 2/7) Florent Marciacq, a political scientist and chargé de mission at the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, blames the EU for having ignored for years that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's interior politics have been going in the wrong direction. Because of the Greek veto on the country's accession to the EU, Mr Marciacq holds the bloc partly responsible for the deterioration of the political climate. He thinks that the lack of hope for EU integration is directly related to the degradation of democracy and the rise of nationalism. Mr Marciacq doubts that the present mediation attempts by Commissioner Hahn will be able to end the crisis, as these attempts do not take into account the extent of democratic setbacks in the country, among other things.

- Die Presse, AT, 2/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150702/mi/item_255506017.pdf

Meeting between Hungarian and Serb Prime Ministers

Energy issues including gas transportation were among topics discussed the intergovernmental meeting between Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vučić. The two Prime Ministers signed a letter of intent on developing infrastructure links between the two countries and a cooperation agreement on education, science and culture. They also signed a document declaring Hungary's support for Serbia's EU integration. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told reporters it would be best to establish a strategic pipeline transporting gas to Hungary and Central Europe from Turkey through Serbia. This option would replace the Russian gas that will stop arriving through Ukraine by 2019 (hungarytoday, HU, 2/7). Viktor Orbán also said Hungary's southern border must be protected from migration but this was not directed against Serbian people. Vučić said Serbia was not happy about the fence, but was confident that the situation at the Serbian-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border would be settled with Hungary's help (Napi Gazdasag, HU, 2/7).

- hungarytoday, HU, 2/7, <http://hungarytoday.hu/news/hungarian-pm-eyes-gas-transport-turkey-serbia-21891>
- Napi Gazdasag, HU, 2/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150702/mi/item_255503910.pdf

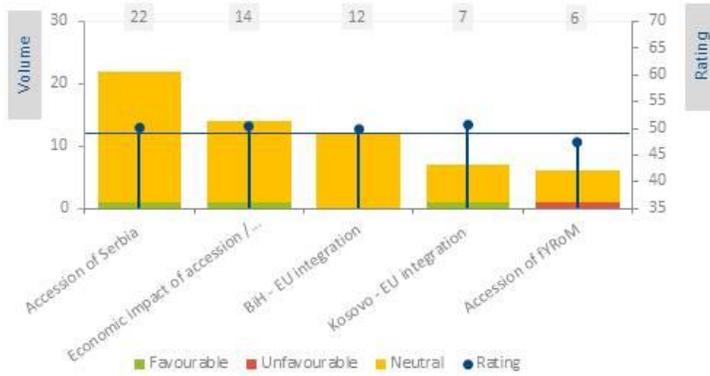
Albanian commitment to transparency

Among the OSCE commitments Albania has pledged to uphold are transparency and citizen engagement – guaranteeing the right of every citizen to address the government and legislature and to be heard on issues of public interest. Consultation with those most affected by a particular law is the most direct path to developing sound, sustainable policies and laws. While it might initially seem like an unnecessary delay in the legislative process, international practice has shown that stakeholder consultations are a benefit, not a burden; a gain, not a cost (balkaneu.com, GR, 2/7).

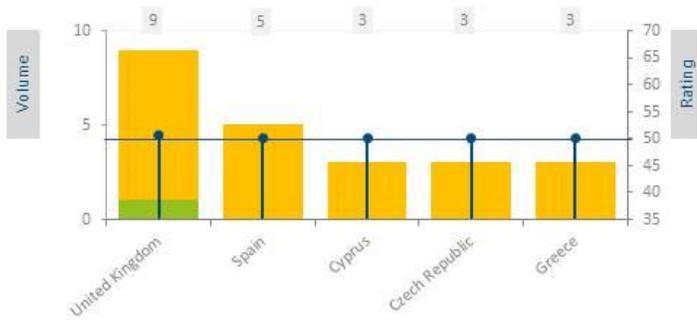
- balkaneu.com, GR, 2/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/op-ed-inclusive-transparent-law-reform-important/>

Charts

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



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



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

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 33 items |
| Rating | 50.2 |
| Favourable % | 6.1% |
| Unfavourable % | 3% |
| Neutral % | 90.9% |

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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia | 11 |
| Viktor Orban - Hungarian Prime Minister | 8 |
| Ratko Mladić - former Bosnian Serb military leader | 2 |

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