



## Key Quotes

Merkel: "**Western Balkan States Have Good Prospects to Join EU**". "**There is still very much to be done, but there are really good signs of progress, and we are pushing to accelerate the process,**" Merkel said in her weekly video message on 4<sup>th</sup> July ahead of her official visit to the western Balkan countries on Wednesday and Thursday. She said it was only through their prospects for EU membership that the western Balkan neighbours could settle their differences (novinite.com, BG, 5/7).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/169660/Merkel%3A+Western+Balkan+States+Have+Good+Prospects+to+Join+EU>

## Summary

### If EU shuns Albania radical Islam beckons

Edi Rama, Albania's Minister passionately wants Albania's future to be in the EU and he foresees danger ahead if his and other Balkan countries are denied this prospect. "*Enlargement fatigue is a kind of self-indulgence for those who have lost the point of why the EU was built in the first place. I am sure the founding fathers of the EU would be ashamed. My humble view is that Europe needs the Balkans today as much as the Balkans needs Europe. That is because enlargement into the Balkans is, first and foremost, an issue of security for Europe.*" In a warning about the potential risk of radical Islam spreading into the Balkans he said "*A young person in Tunis or Tobruk feels he has no future. But in Albania the star in the sky is Europe. If the EU is not able to show up in the expected way, there will be a huge space for radical Islam*" adding "*In our Balkan region, there are the most pro-American and pro-European Muslims in the world*" he said, referring to Muslim communities in Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. "*But it's changing, it's not like it was even 10 years ago*" (ft.com, UK, 3/7).

- ft.com, UK, 3/7, <http://blogs.ft.com/the-world/2015/07/if-eu-shuns-albania-radical-islam-beckons/>

### IPA funds for Serbia

Serbia is to receive 102.3 million euros from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds. The Serbian government and the European Commission signed financial agreements that Serbia to gain access to 102.3 million euros under the IPA program for 2014. By the end of the year, the country is expected to get additional EUR 86.8 million from the funds (Poslovni Dnevnik, HR, 3/7). However Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić asked "*Serbia is moving towards the EU but we also have our friends like everybody else in the world. What would it look like to do something against our friends in order to join a new association?*" Dačić asked (Dnevnik.bg, BG, 3/7).

- Poslovni Dnevnik, HR, 3/7, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150703/mi/item\\_255728600.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150703/mi/item_255728600.pdf)
- Dnevnik.bg, BG, 3/7, [http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/novini\\_ot\\_es/2015/07/03/2565449\\_dachich\\_surbii\\_niama\\_da\\_jertva\\_priatelstvoto\\_si\\_s/?ref=rss](http://www.dnevnik.bg/evropa/novini_ot_es/2015/07/03/2565449_dachich_surbii_niama_da_jertva_priatelstvoto_si_s/?ref=rss)

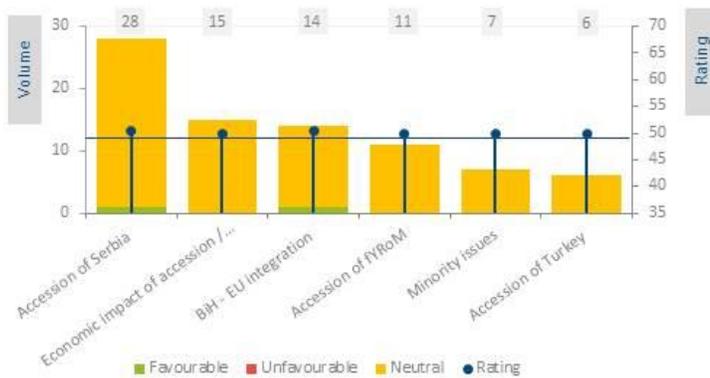
### Help for Serbia to deal with migrants

Police chiefs from Germany, Austria and Hungary have agreed to help Serbia crack down on waves of illegal migrants transiting its territory heading for the European Union, Serbia's police chief was quoted on Thursday as saying. Tens of thousands of migrants from the Middle East and Africa are using the Balkan route to enter the EU, passing from Greece into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and then Serbia on their way to Hungary, which is in the EU's passport-free Schengen zone (Balkans.com, UK, 3/7).

- Balkans.com, UK, 3/7, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=204989>

# Charts

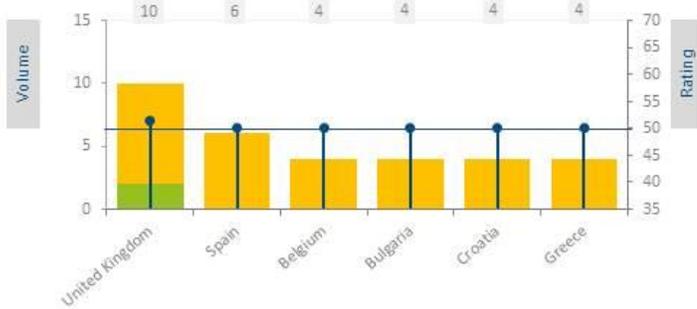
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Milorad Dodik - Bosnian Serb politician	4
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	3

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