



Key Quotes

Amnesty International on Tuesday accused Balkan countries of mistreating migrants passing through their territories on the way to the European Union, saying people fleeing war were being **"shamefully let down"**. Migrants fleeing war, poverty and persecution were being **"shamefully let down by a failing EU asylum and migration system which leaves them trapped without protection in Serbia and Macedonia,"** the London-based group said. **"Serbia and Macedonia have to do much more to respect migrants and refugees' rights,"** Gauri van Gulik, Amnesty's Deputy Director for Europe and Central Asia, said. **"But it is impossible to separate the human rights violations there, from the broader pressures of the flow of migrants and refugees into and through the EU, and a failed EU migration system."** (yahoo!, UK, 6/7)

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/amnesty-accuses-balkans-abusing-eu-bound-migrants-221849666.html>

Summary

Small steps

The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, will travel to the Balkans on Wednesday where most countries want to join the EU, yet reforms need to be implemented before an accession to the EU is possible in order to ensure success. Countries like Romania and Bulgaria which entered the EU before implementing all of the necessary reforms and are now struggling to keep up democratic principles and the rule of law. It is important to support the countries in their endeavours to join the EU in the long-term, yet quick progress should not be expected (Suddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 6/7). Merkel believes that Albania, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have real prospects of joining the European Union but, she says, only through the prism of EU membership will it be possible for rival countries to solve their differences (glas-slavonije.hr, HR, 6/7). The Serbian government expects her visit will be marked with the opening of the first chapters in the accession negotiations of Serbia with the EU (Delo, SI, 6/7)

- Suddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 6/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150706/mi/item_256056736.pdf
- glas-slavonije.hr, HR, 6/7, <http://www.glas-slavonije.hr/274016/2/Angela-Merkel-stize-na-Balkan>
- Delo, SI, 6/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150706/mi/item_256088383.pdf

Corruption is standing in Albania's way

Het Financieele Dagblad (NL, 6/7), reports that although Albania received official candidacy for the European Union a year ago and, like its neighbouring country the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia it is looking forward to full membership, it might take longer than expected before this is achieved. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in 2014 that the EU will cease to expand for the next five years. Although it could be said that he was pleasing euro sceptics with that remark it is clear that the countries in the 'waiting room' still have a long way to go before they are internally ready meet the criteria for acceptance.

- Het Financieele Dagblad, NL, 6/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150706/mi/item_256049170.pdf

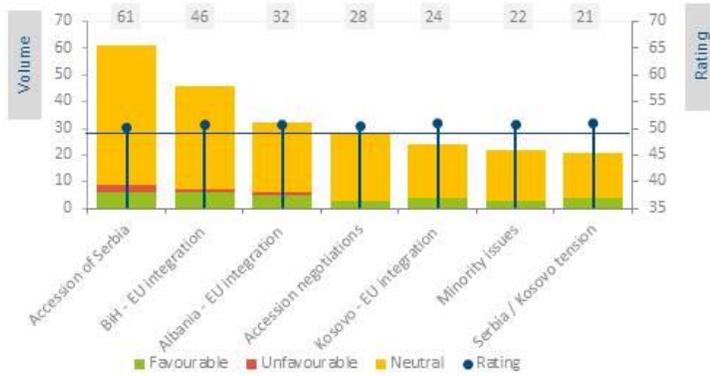
Solution of name dispute key

This week will be of key importance for the solution of the political crisis that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been seized with, Vecer daily comments. According to the newspaper, the European Commission has a clear position – the political crisis should be solved so as to realise its recommendations. A milestone in the talks is opposition's request for an interim government which will organise the forthcoming snap election in the country. In the meantime, the government has started implementing the tasks outlined by the EC (focus-news.net, BG, 6/7). However Menduh Thaçi, leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Albanians says that negotiations will not be successful unless the leaders reach agreement over the name issue (focus-news.net, BG, 6/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 6/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/06/377378/vecer-macedonia-this-week-of-key-importance-for-political-crisis-solution.html>
- focus-news.net, BG, 6/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/06/377381/sky-macedonia-political-crisis-talks-not-to-be-successful-unless-name-issue-agreement-found-says-thaci.html>

Charts

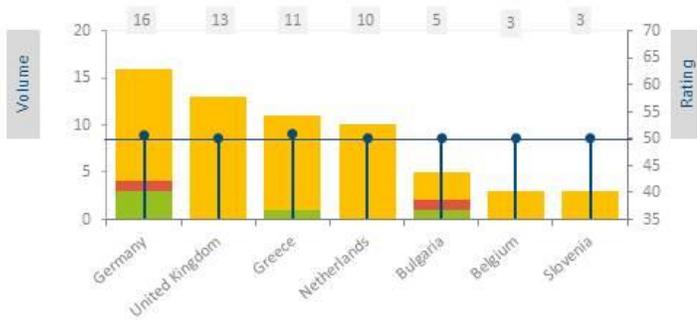
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	41
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	13
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	11
David Cameron - British Prime Minister - QUOTED	10
Lord Ashdown - former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina	10
Edi Rama - Albania PM	8
Bujar Nishani - President Albania	7

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