



Key Quotes

German Chancellor Angela Merkel assured Albania and other Balkan states that there would be no artificial delays on their drive to join the European Union and said it was in the bloc's interests they make it in. **"May I tell you that it is in our own interests that our promise that the countries in the Western Balkans have a European perspective -- that we realise this perspective, because that concerns our credibility,"** Merkel said. **"I can tell you, nothing will be artificially delayed. There won't be any difficulties constructed ... I think it is widely recognised that Albania is taking big steps forward,"** she added (uk.reuters.com, UK, 8/7)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/07/08/uk-albania-germany-merkel-idUKKCN0PI2JG20150708>

Summary

Serbian PM to attend Srebrenica memorial service

The Serbian Prime Minister said late Tuesday that he would attend memorial services for the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre over the weekend. *"The Serbian government decided that I should represent Serbia in Srebrenica"* Vučić said after an emergency late-night cabinet meeting. The decision was reached after Belgrade received assurances from Russia that it would block a British-sponsored UN resolution on Srebrenica which strongly condemned the Srebrenica genocide. The resolution was due for debate on Tuesday, but was postponed for Wednesday amid threats of veto (Europeonline-magazine, UK, 8/7).

- Europeonline-magazine, UK, 8/7, http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/serbian-prime-minister-vucic-to-attend-srebrenica-anniversary_401452.html

A loss for humanity

In an interview former Turkish President Abdullah Gül discusses Turkey's EU membership. Ankara recently sent the message that it would be able to manage on its own should the EU refuse it as a member and it worries Mr Gül that the EU does not see Turkey as a major partner. This is a grave mistake, he says. He suggests that if the EU wants to be a global actor it needs a country like Turkey. There would be a big positive response from the world if the EU had an Islamic member state, it would arouse new interest and appeal to countries that might have never thought of trading with it before, Mr Gül argues (Suddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 8/7). Turkey's European Union minister, Volkan Bozkır, said on Tuesday, after holding a meeting with European Union officials for the first time since the June 7th parliamentary elections in Turkey *"whichever political party forms a government, Turkey's EU membership remains a strategic goal"* adding that all parties would have to act together in the accession process (Balkans.com, UK, 8/7).

- Suddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 8/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150708/mi/item_256364010.pdf
- Balkans.com, UK, 8/7, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=205131>

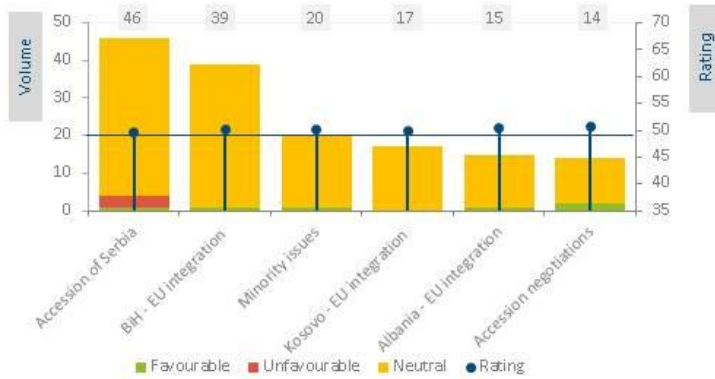
Merkel pulls Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina from Putin's embrace

"We do everything to speed up the process of normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo. To open a new chapter in the negotiations with Serbia a condition is to progress in relations between Kosovo and Serbia" said German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the eve of her visit to Belgrade (Vecernji List, HR, 8/7). Before going to the Serbian capital's Angela Merkel formally supported the European integration of Serbia. Although now Kosovo and Serbia converse with one another, Berlin is exerting pressure on both sides to accelerate the dialogue and normalization of relations. In Germany a compromise is expected (Delo, SI, 8/7).

- Vecernji List, HR, 8/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150708/mi/item_256382165.pdf
- Delo, SI, 8/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150708/mi/item_256382272.pdf

Charts

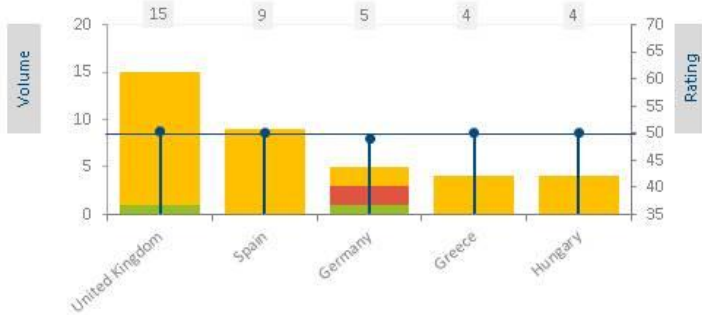
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Volume | 50 items |
| Rating | 49.7 |
| Favourable % | 4% |
| Unfavourable % | 8% |
| Neutral % | 88% |

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



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

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|---|--------------------|
| Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia | 25 |
| Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President | 17 |
| Angela Merkel - German Chancellor | 12 |
| Milorad Dodik - Bosnian Serb Politician | 9 |
| Vladimir Putin - Russian President | 5 |
| Peter Szijjarto - FM Hungary | 4 |

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

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