



Key Quotes

Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik pushed on Tuesday for a referendum on the authority of Bosnia's national court over ethnic Serbs, stepping up a challenge to the country's integrity two decades after it emerged from war. While the Bosniaks and Croats on the whole want greater integration with the West, Dodik has sought to strengthen ties with traditional Serbian ally Russia. **"The number of indictments and verdicts against the Serbs before the national court proves irrefutably a selective approach to justice, which aims to lay blame exclusively on the Serb people,"** Dodik told the Serb Republic parliament (uk.reuters.com, UK, 14/7).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/07/14/uk-bosnia-court-referendum-idUKKCN0PO1DW20150714>

Summary

Mediation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn has arrived on a visit to Skopje. As part of his visit Mr Hahn will meet with the leaders of the four biggest political parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. European Commissioner Hahn will be accompanied by the three MEPs who are mediators in the process - Ivo Vajgl, Richard Howitt and Eduard Kukan. Mr Hahn will hold individual meetings with VMRO-DPMNE leader and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, the leader of the opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia Zoran Zaev, leader of the Albanian ruling party Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) Ali Ahmeti and leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA) Menduh Thaci. After the individual meetings there will be a general one (focus-news.net, BG, 14/7). US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Victoria Nuland, called upon the political leaders in Macedonia to return to the negotiating table and realise the agreement reached on June 2 (focus-news.net, BG, 14/7)

- focus-news.net, BG, 14/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/14/377967/republika-macedonia-eu-commissioner-hahn-arrived-on-visit-to-skopje.html>
- focus-news.net, BG, 14/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/14/377961/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-victoria-nuland-called-for-solution-to-political-crisis-in-macedonia.html>

Reform of the Albanian judiciary

Albania is still far away from launching EU membership negotiations amid insufficient reforms, especially in the judiciary to combat the high level of corruption and organized crime in the country, the President of European Parliament Martin Schulz told Albanian leaders (Balkans.com, UK, 14/7) on his visit to Tirana on 13th and 14th July 2015. His visit also coincides with the public consultation of the report "Analysis of the Justice System in Albania-2015" which seeks to address problems in the Albanian judiciary and the judicial reform process (Gov.uk, UK, 13/7).

- Balkans.com, UK, 14/7, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=205272>
- Gov.uk, UK, 13/7, <https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/analysis-of-the-justice-system-in-albania-2015>

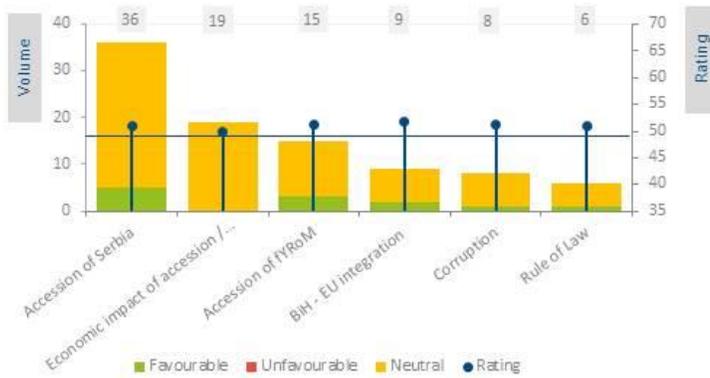
Hungary starts building anti-immigration fence along the border

Het Financieele Dagblad (NL, 14/7) reports that Hungary has started building a fence along the border with Serbia last Monday. The fence is planned to become 175 km long and 4m high and will serve to keep out illegal immigrants who come from the Balkans in order to get into the EU via Hungary. Angela Merkel called the fence 'nonsensical'. Most immigrants do not stay in Hungary, but travel onwards to wealthier member states such as Germany or Sweden. Hungary, however, fears that these immigrants might be sent back to Hungary. Hungary registered 70,000 illegal immigrants this year, and 43,000 in 2014.

- Het Financieele Dagblad, NL, 14/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150714/mi/item_257152620.pdf

Charts

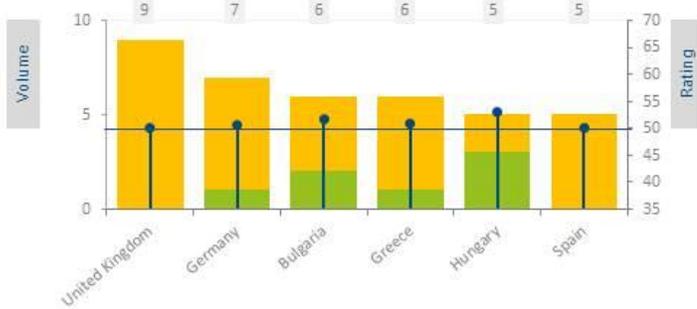
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by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	11
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	10
Viktor Orban - PM Hungary	6
Victoria Nuland - Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs US	5
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4
Tibor Navracsics - Education	3

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