



Key Quotes

Romania is ready to assist Serbia in the accession process to the European Union if the Serbian side wants this, said Romanian President Klaus Iohannis. ***“Serbia deserves to be rewarded for the significant reform efforts made so far. Therefore I expressed Romania’s full willingness and openness to assist Serbia in areas relevant to the integration process, if Serbia, of course, wants it,”*** President said (romaniajournal.ro, RO, 16/7).

<http://www.romaniajournal.ro/president-iohannis-in-serbia-romania-is-ready-to-assist-in-view-of-eu-accession/>

Summary

The overlooked crisis on the Balkans

The EU has overlooked structural problems not only in Greece, but also on the Balkans, writes Adelheid Wölfl in a commentary in Der Standard (AT, 16/7). Commissioner Johannes Hahn has now had to travel to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia once again to prevent an escalation of the situation. The past few years have shown that those who refuse to implement reforms have the upper hand, EU integration is no longer a goal for politicians, clientilism is getting stronger and nationalism remains the most important political instrument. This is unlikely to change as long as unemployment and the lack of opportunities remain dire. More pressure could be exerted by freezing EU funds. In the long run, a Marshall Plan for economic development - as demanded for Greece, but for the Balkans as a whole - would probably be the only thing that could help, according to Wölfl.

- Der Standard, AT, 16/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150716/mi/item_257452014.pdf

Republika Srpska wants more autonomy

Lawmakers in the autonomous Serb region of Bosnia have voted to hold a referendum on the authority of the national court over Serbs, in a move the West says is an open challenge to the integrity of the Bosnian state. By a slim majority lawmakers backed the proposal by Milorad Dodik, the president of Bosnia’s Republika Srpska who has grown increasingly bold in advocating the country’s dissolution 20 years after it emerged from war. The vote came only a day after top diplomats in Bosnia representing the European Union and United States warned Serb leaders that the proposed referendum would be a direct threat to the sovereignty and security of Bosnia that cannot be tolerated. The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo quickly denounced the vote warning it might take action. In April Dodik’s ruling party said it would seek a referendum in 2018 on Republika Srpska’s secession unless the region is granted greater powers, deepening concern in the West that Bosnia risks unravelling (rferl.org, CZ, 16/7).

- rferl.org, CZ, 16/7, <http://www.rferl.org/content/bosnia-serbs-approve-referendum-challenging-national-court/27130271.html>

Charts

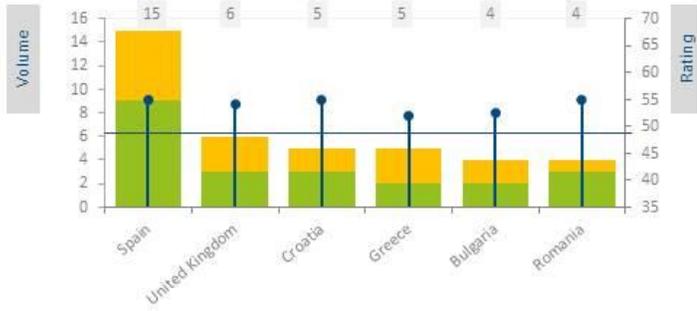
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	57 items
Rating	54.6
Favourable %	63.2%
Unfavourable %	1.8%
Neutral %	35%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement	37
Nikola Gruevski – PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	34
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	24
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	10
Martin Schulz (EP President) - QUOTED	7
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	7
Milorad Dodik - Bosnian Serb politician	4

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