



Key Quotes

Chuck Sudetic writes that Hashim Thaçi and the rest of the Kosovar political elite are frustrating investigations into murder, kidnapping, and trafficking in human organs. He continues: ***"The sad thing is that the United States and European countries knew 10 years ago that Thaçi and his men were engaged in drug smuggling and creating a mafia state,"*** said a European ambassador who has followed the Balkans for decades. ***"The attitude was, 'He's a bastard, but he's our bastard.'"***(politico.eu, BE, 21/7)

<http://www.politico.eu/article/kosovo-hashim-thaci-un-special-court-tribunal-organ-trafficking-kla-serbia-milosevic-serbia-ramush/>

Summary

Serbian message to the Republika Srpska

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić has urged the leader of Bosnia's Serbs to rethink a referendum that would challenge the powers of Bosnia-Herzegovina's courts over that country's Serb-dominated region. Vučić told a news conference in Belgrade that the referendum was a sovereign decision of the Republika Srpska, but, he added, *"I asked, on behalf of Serbia, that they once again consider that decision"*. The Serbian prime minister had held talks with Republika Srpska President, Milorad Dodik, who attended the news conference. Vučić went on to say *"Serbia has never and in no way interfered in the internal affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, nor in the internal affairs of the Republika Srpska, but today I am grateful to Dodik for accepting, on my initiative, to have this kind of conversation"* (tol.org, CZ, 20/7).

- tol.org, CZ, 20/7, <http://www.tol.org/client/article/24879-vucic-presses-bosnian-serbs-on-referendum-vilnius-removes-soviet-era-statues.html>

More debate in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, met with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Minister for European Integration Fatmir Besimi and Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki. During the meeting Federica Mogherini welcomed the agreement achieved for solving the political crisis in Macedonia (focus-news.net, BG, 21/7). Meanwhile Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski's holiday on the beach in a luxury area of Tel Aviv has sparked reaction and debate in the country. The opposition has been outspoken, especially after the cancellation of talks between work groups of the main four political parties in the country for the start of the implementation of the agreement (balkaneu.com, GR, 21/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 21/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/21/378471/vecer-macedonia-federica-mogherini-welcomes-the-agreement-for-solving-the-political-crisis-in-macedonia.html>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 21/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/prime-ministers-holidays-spark-debates-skopje/>

Albania closer to the EU

Albania is now an official EU candidate country. The EU ambassador to the country Romana Vlahutin pointed out to a group of journalists that Albania's starting point was lower than those of other ex-Communist countries. It is improving its infrastructure using IPA funding from the EU. Today some 90% of the population supports joining the European Union. The country's main pre-accession problems are corruption and drug production (Rzeczpospolita, PL, 21/7).

- Rzeczpospolita, PL, 21/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150721/mi/item_258071942.pdf

Charts

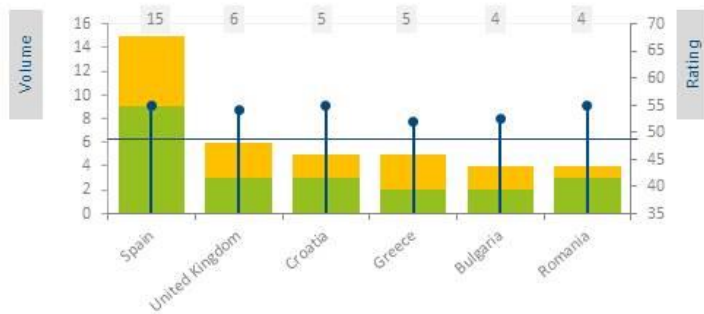
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Volume	57 items
Rating	54.6
Favourable %	63.2%
Unfavourable %	1.8%
Neutral %	35%

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



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

Stakeholder / Source	Number of mentions
7	
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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