



Key Quotes

"The integration of the Western Balkans is of particular importance for the stabilization of the region. The process is complex, but we can be sure that the path ends with the Western Balkans in the EU," EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini said. Speaking at an international conference, Mogherini said that if there were still countries that want to join the EU, ***"we have to invest in the process". There is no stability without democracy, and there is no democracy without a stable environment. "I believe that Europe needs enlargement. I think that EU and the member states have to work for enlargement, as well as the EU applicant countries,"*** local media quoted Mogherini as saying (sofiaglobe.com, BG, 23/7) <http://sofiaglobe.com/2015/07/23/mogherini-briefed-on-migration-pressure-on-bulgaria/>

Summary

Greek foreign policy in the Balkans

With the simple phrase *"Greece returns to the Balkans"* Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias set the tone of Greek foreign policy as he saw it. He talked about the meetings, partnerships and agreements he recently forged in his visits to seven Balkan countries. Kotzias explained that Greece's foreign policy has two components, on the one hand *"to support cooperation with a second country and its course towards the EU"* and on the other *"to create an internal Balkan space in order to build out of the Balkan region something which will also facilitate the future position of all those states in the EU itself"* (balkaneu.com, GR, 23/7).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 23/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/nikos-kotzias-greece-returns-balkans/>

The Balkans' new zeal for protecting whistle-blowers

Balkan countries vying to join the EU have passed, or are in the middle of passing, better whistle-blower protection laws than most EU Member States have. Ironically, the EU is co-financing this new anti-corruption zeal. It's impossible to fight corporate corruption if you don't know it is happening. But whistle-blowers never get an easy ride and their stories often show that if they'd known beforehand what they were getting themselves into, few would become whistle-blowers at all. Višnja Marilović was a bookkeeper at the Skenderija cultural and sports centre in Sarajevo, when, one day in 2010, she was asked to process an invoice for a lot of beds. She soon realized that not only was her boss furnishing his new hotel with the company's money but that evidence of corruption was passing across her desk every day. After getting prosecutors to investigate, she assumed the director would be replaced and they could carry on working. Instead, she got fired and went through nearly three years of misery until her boss' trial finally began earlier this year. *"I passed through hell with my children and for two months I had to live under police protection because of threats,"* she said. *"If I had known how much my kids would suffer I would not have done it"* She now works at the Centre for Responsible Democracy, a Sarajevo-based NGO that helped to draw up Bosnia and Herzegovina's brand new whistle-blower protection law. (dw.de, DE, 23/7).

- dw.de, DE, 23/7, <http://www.dw.com/en/the-balkans-new-zeal-for-protecting-whistleblowers/a-18603100>

Ethnic crimes in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has expressed its concern about the rising number of ethnic related incidents in the country. Based on their annual report it seems the police have neglected the investigation of many cases and have not pursued perpetrators (balkaneu.com, GR, 23/7).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 23/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/helsinki-committee-concerned-growing-ethnic-incidents/>

Charts

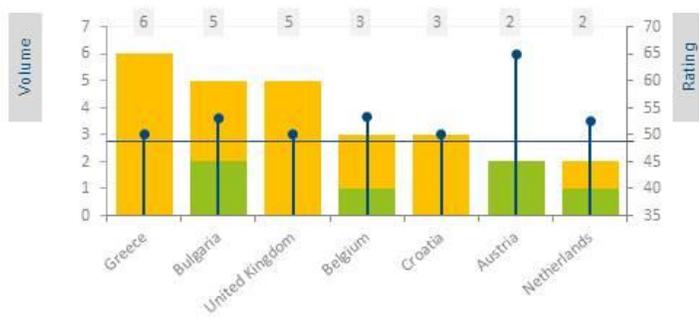
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	29 items
Rating	51.9
Favourable %	20.7%
Unfavourable %	3.4%
Neutral %	75.9%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	5
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	3
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	2
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2
Menduh Thaçi - Albanian Opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2
Ali Ahmeti - Albanian Opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2

Copyright © Ebiqity plc 2015

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