



Key Quotes

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić received British Ambassador to Serbia Denis Keefe, who handed him over a letter from British Prime Minister David Cameron in which he praised the leadership of Prime Minister Vučić and expressed support for reforms and economic measures of the Serbian government. In his letter, Cameron expressed confidence that **"these measures will bring results in the progress on the country's European path and in increasing the welfare of the citizens of Serbia"** (balkans.com, UK, 27/7).

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=205593>

Summary

Turkey urged to maintain Kurdish peace process

The columnist Deniz Yücel writing in Die Welt (DE, 27/7) suggests that the current Turkish government has ruined all previous hopes of European accession. In Syria, the Turkish government supported every rebel group, including al-Nusra and IS, except the Syrian-Kurdish PYD, and its new offensive against IS masks previous implicit cooperation along the Turkish-Syrian border. He writes that there have been only two attacks on IS positions and these have been overshadowed by seven on the PKK in Northern Iraq. Mr Yücel posits that the latter is Ankara's main target. The Turkish government plans to create an atmosphere of fear and terrorism in order to secure its re-election and the PKK's recent attacks on the police have smothered any hopes of pluralistic opposition to this authoritarian strategy. The euobserver.com (BE, 27/7) notes that the EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, for her part has told Turkey's foreign minister to maintain the peace process with Kurdish people. "Any action taken should avoid the risk of endangering the ceasefire and the Kurdish peace process" she said.

- Die Welt, DE, 27/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150727/mi/item_258793631.pdf
- euobserver.com, BE, 27/7, <https://euobserver.com/foreign/129772>

Serbia presses UN not to allow Kosovo UNESCO membership

Serbia's foreign minister Ivica Dačić has sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in reply to Kosovo's projected application to become a UNESCO member state, Serbian Večernje Novosti writes. According to Dačić, Serbia finds this unacceptable since Kosovo cannot be considered a state in its own right. Dačić's goes on to say that Serbia has not yet changed its stance on the status of Kosovo, despite facing Pristina's requests to become a member of various international organisations which it views as a breach of the Brussels agreement (focus-news.net, BG, 27/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 27/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/27/378896/vecernje-novosti-kosovos-unesco-membership-unacceptable-for-serbia-ivica-dacic-says-in-letter-to-ban-ki-moon.html>

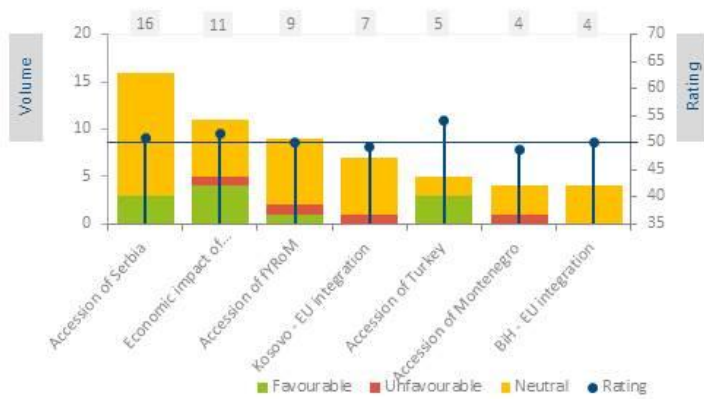
Voting system for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will discuss voting in the diaspora. The opposition thinks voting in the three constituencies outside the country has to be changed and the weight votes in and outside of the country needs to be agreed. The opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia will most likely want an MP from the diaspora to receive a mandate only if at least 80% of people needed to elect an MP in the country have voted at the elections in this constituency. The ruling Albanian party, the Democratic Union for Integration thinks voting in the diaspora has to be abolished (focus-news.net, BG, 27/7).

- focus-news.net, BG, 27/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/27/378888/dnevnik-macedonia-parties-to-discuss-voting-in-diaspora.html>

Charts

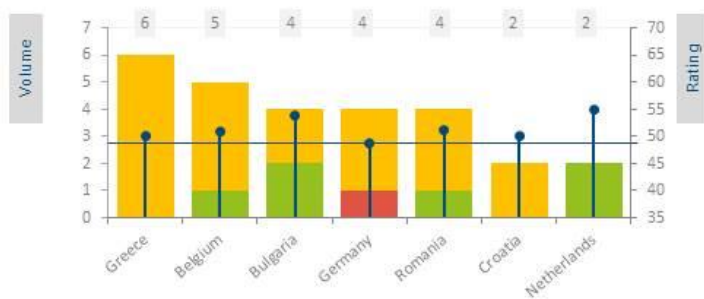
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by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	30 items
Rating	51.2
Favourable %	23.3%
Unfavourable %	3.3%
Neutral %	73.4%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Viktor Orban - Hungarian Prime Minister	6
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	2
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	2
Frans Timmermans - First VP - Better Regulation	2

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