



Key Quotes

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić on Sunday pointed to the dangers of regional instability and political conflicts. **"Today I have only one fear. Not regarding the implementation of our economic reforms, but regional instability and political conflicts. I have great fear because of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,"** he told Politika daily's issue of Sunday (dalje.com, HR, 19/7).

<http://dalje.com/en-croatia/serbian-pm-says-fears-bosnia-situation-regional-instability/550607>

Summary

Serbia denies Greek recognition of Kosovo

On Thursday Serbia's Foreign Minister, Ivica Dačić, was reassuring the Serbian press that he is aware of the pressure that Greece is under to recognize an independent Kosovo but that he believes this will not happen. He is probably right. Greece is one of the five EU member states with Romania, Spain, Slovakia and Cyprus, which do not recognize Kosovo, which provides Belgrade with important leverage in the Euro-Atlantic context of their negotiations. Further integration in NATO and the EU is impossible for Kosovo without its recognition from all member states (New Europe, BE, 17/7).

- New Europe, BE, 17/7, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/athens-closer-to-pristina-but-not-at-belgrades-expense/>

Doubtful candidate

Montenegro is expected to be the next NATO and EU member but corruption and organized crime still prevail. Despite the Greek crisis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has recently found time to visit Albania, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. All three Balkan countries want to join the EU. Serbia and Albania are candidate countries and Bosnia-Herzegovina is regarded as a so-called potential candidate. In Tirana, Belgrade and Sarajevo, Merkel made it clear that she sees a European perspective for these countries. However, Montenegro, the country the Chancellor did not tour, could be the one that joins the Western community fastest. *"I expect NATO to invite Montenegro to join in December at the latest"* the Montenegrin Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Lukčić, suggested in Podgorica adding *"and I would imagine that we will belong to the EU after 1 January 2021"* (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 17/7).

- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 17/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150717/mi/item_257592818.pdf

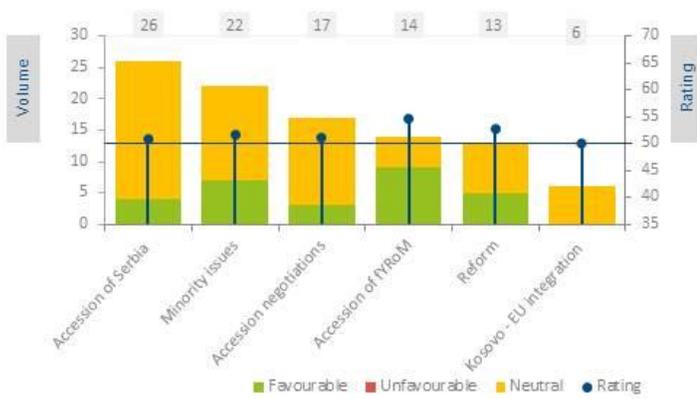
Bulgaria welcomes agreement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Bulgaria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on July 17 that it welcomed the agreement achieved by the main party leaders in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. *"This is an important initial step in the process that should lead to permanently overcoming the political crisis and the challenges facing the Republic of Macedonia"* Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry said, and noted that in the coming months the European Commission will monitor the agreement to ensure the full implementation of its recommendations (sofiaglobe.com, BG, 17/7). However Delo (SI, 17/7) suggests that the new agreement will not resolve the political instability, it is a compromise which will calm the situation down only for a short while and should Brussels assess that the situation in the country is under control again it might put it back on hold. Delo's opinion is that in that case, after a decade-long wait the process of democratisation will come to a halt as well.

- sofiaglobe.com, BG, 17/7, <http://sofiaglobe.com/2015/07/17/bulgaria-welcomes-july-15-agreement-in-macedonia/>
- Delo, SI, 17/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150717/mi/item_257614293.pdf

Charts

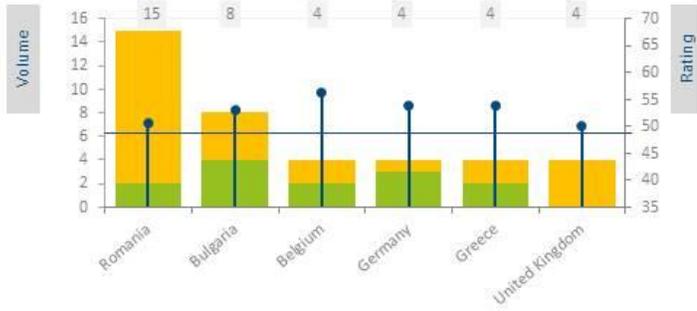
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
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Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	15
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	12
Nikola Gruevski - FYRoM PM	9
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	8
Nikos Kotzias FM Greece	3

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