



## Key Quotes

British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Edward Ferguson, doesn't call on the creation of Bosnia and Herzegovina without entities, what he described as being the Republic of Srpska leaders' biggest fear, but said that changes will be the reality if the country wants to be a member of the EU. **"If Bosnia and Herzegovina is to join the EU, as we all hope it will, then change is inevitable. At some point, that will include constitutional change, just as it has done for other recent EU members like Croatia,"** he wrote (index.hr, HR, 19/8).

<http://www.index.hr/vijesti/clanak/britanski-veleposlanik-u-bih-srpske-vlasti-izmisljaju-neprijatelje/837165.aspx>

## Summary

### Serbia annoys EU with Russian manoeuvres

Russian press reports indicate that Moscow will conduct military exercises together with Serbia on Russian territory later this year. The EU said that Serbia is sending a wrong signal to the Union it is officially trying to join. *"Slavonic Brotherhood is a joint exercise with Serbia and Belarus which will take place on Russian territory"*, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu was quoted as saying, following a meeting with his Serbian colleague Bratislav Gašić on 15 August. The Russian minister also awarded Serbian officers with medals *"for strengthening military cooperation"*. Gašić was quoted as saying he was happy that Serbia would be attending the manoeuvres. This is far from being an isolated example of the developing military ties between EU candidate country, Serbia, and Russia. On 20 October 2014, Liberation Day in Serbia, Russian President Vladimir Putin attended a parade in Serbia with the participation of Russian troops (EurActiv.com, BE, 19/8).

- EurActiv.com, BE, 19/8, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/europes-east/eu-says-serbian-manoevres-russia-send-wrong-signal-316904>

### Kosovo Serbia talks

The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa, and the Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, are expected to meet on 25<sup>th</sup> August in Brussels to continue their talks. No time is expected to be wasted in the meeting set up by the head of the European diplomacy, Federica Mogherini, and several agreements are expected to be signed. The issue of the Association of Serb majority communes seems to be the most difficult point in the talks between Kosovo and Serbia. The Serb side has demanded that this association have executive powers, but Pristina has categorically rejected this demand. According to the Kosovo government, the Association must function under the laws of Kosovo without executive powers. Although there are no details as to the powers of the Association of Serb communes, the largest opposition party in Kosovo, Self Determination, has warned of protests and other measures against any association of Serb communes (Balkaneu.com, GR, 19/8).

- Balkaneu.com, GR, 19/8, <http://www.balkaneu.com/difficult-topics-discussed-fresh-talks-kosovo-serbia/>

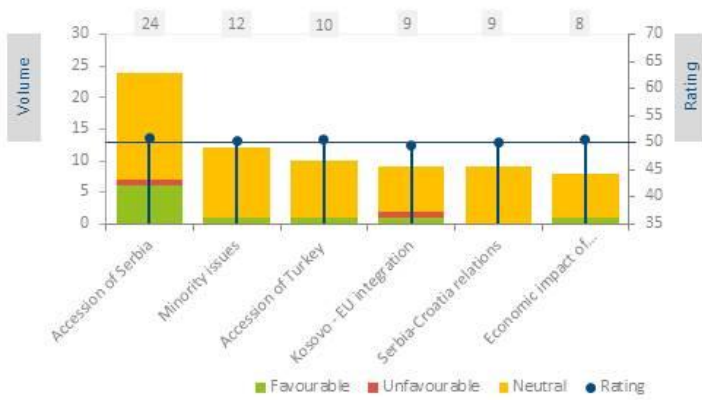
### Vukovar has never been more divided since the decision to remove bilingual signs

The Vukovar Mayor stated that the new statute follows the Constitutional Court's ruling on the respect of minority rights, while not wounding the feelings of the Croatian majority. Serbian Minister of Labour Aleksandar Vulin says that the EU's reaction will be much more important than the one of Croatian officials, while the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement asking its neighbouring country to wait for Croatia to resolve its problem through its institutions as it always does and does not use every opportunity to stir tensions between the two states (Vecernji List, HR, 19/8).

- Vecernji List, HR, 19/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150819/mi/item\\_261484125.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150819/mi/item_261484125.pdf)

# Charts

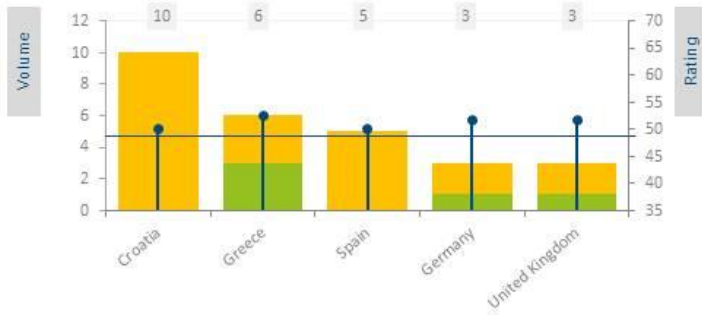
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Alexandar Vulin - Minister of Labour Serbia	4
Federica Mogherini - HR Foreign Affairs	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	3

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