



Key Quotes

Serb Orthodox dignitaries welcomed Pope Francis's advocacy of talks between representatives of the Croat and Serbian people and their respective churches to discuss the past and present and current problems in their relations. **"Maybe those who do not want to see Croatia and Serbia as two important factors in the Balkans have had a role in (those problems),"** said Patriarch Irinej. He said that he was glad that in Serbia **"no Croat suffered because they were Croats and no Catholic suffered for being Catholic."** (dalje.com, HR, 20/8)

<http://dalje.com/en-croatia/split-archbishop-and-serb-orthodox-church-head-call-for-unity-of-christians/553222>

Summary

Opportunity to solve the name dispute

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should take advantage of the situation in Greece and raise the name issue above Kosovo's recognition while the financially troubled country is holding negotiations with the international community, Macedonian Vecer daily writes. According to analysts, diplomats from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should try to prove before the international community that there are strong reasons for a change in the Greek position on the name dispute. Vecer comments further that apart from economic conditions, Greece also had imposed on it some political conditions in order to get the needed financial aid, such as the recognition of Kosovo (focus-news.net, BG, 20/8).

- focus-news.net, BG, 20/8, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/08/20/381153/vecer-macedonia-should-take-advantage-of-situation-in-greece-to-raise-name-issue.html>

Serbia Croatia tension

Following the decision to remove signs in Cyrillic in the Croatian city of Vukova, the Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić said *"we are very upset, the fight for the rights of Serbs in Croatia continues"*. Serbian Justice Minister Nikola Selaković announced that Serbia will officially refer the matter to European and international institutions for the protection of minority rights (Vecer. SI, 20/8). Le Soir (BE, 20/8) reports Croatia angered Serbia, but also defenders of European values, with the decision taken by the municipal council of Vukovar. The Serbian minority forms one third of Vukovar's population. A European Commission spokesperson said *"the protection of minorities is one of the core values of the EU, and it is explicitly mentioned in the treaty of the European Union. Also, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights forbids all discrimination based on belonging to a national minority"*.

- Vecer. SI, 20/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150820/mi/item_261616463.pdf
- Le Soir, BE, 20/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150820/mi/item_261630268.pdf

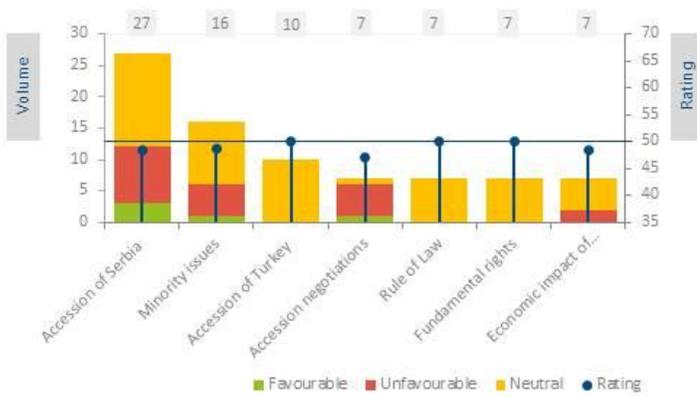
Serbia wants to send its refugees to Bulgaria

Immigrants from the Middle East arriving in Serbia will be redirected to Bulgaria, stated Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić quoted by Seg daily (BG, 20/8). He explained that his country would not build any border wall; but as a result of the Hungarian wall on the border with Serbia, refugees will be redirected to Bulgaria and Croatia. Meanwhile, the EU's border agency Frontex announced that at least 107,500 immigrants - a monthly record - entered the EU in July. Vecer (SI, 20/8) notes that on Wednesday Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić criticized the EU for not responding to Hungary's building of a border fence and said Belgrade would build a shelter for thousands of migrants transiting to Western Europe.

- Seg daily, BG, 20/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150820/mi/item_261612427.pdf
- Vecer, SI, 20/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150820/mi/item_261616875.pdf

Charts

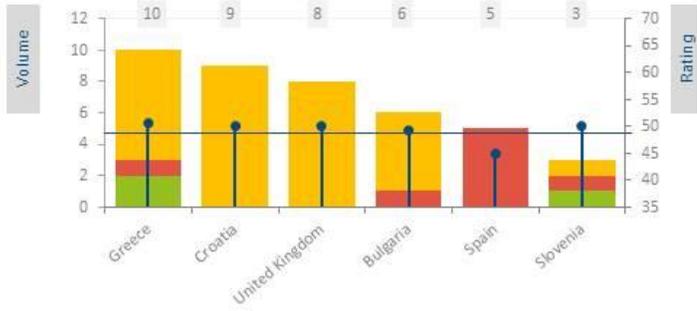
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	46 items
Rating	49.1
Favourable %	8.7%
Unfavourable %	21.7%
Neutral %	69.6%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	16
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	6
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	6
Milorad Dodik - Bosnian Serb Politician	5
Edward Ferguson - UK ambassador to BiH	5

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

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