



Key Quotes

Serbia and Kosovo have reached a **“landmark”** agreement in several key areas, according to the EU. Prime ministers Aleksandar Vučić of Serbia and Isa Mustafa of Kosovo struck a deal in areas including energy and telecommunications, said European Union policy chief Federica Mogherini, who is brokering the talks. **“Today’s outcome represents landmark achievements in the normalisation process,”** Federica Mogherini said. **“Solutions such as those found today bring concrete benefits to the people and at the same time enable the two sides to advance on their European path.”** (theguardian.com, UK, 26/8)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/26/serbia-and-kosovo-in-co-operation-deal>

Summary

Hardening stance over Republika Srpska referendum

Republika Srpska’s planned referendum on the Bosnia and Herzegovina Court and Prosecutor’s Office is an opportunity for Republika Srpska’s citizens to help spur reforms to institutions that were illegally forced on Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Office of the High Representative. Republika Srpska’s president Milorad Dodik has issued a detailed report and legal analysis explaining why the referendum is legal and necessary. The referendum is part of Republika Srpska’s longstanding efforts to bring about essential reforms to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Court and Prosecutor’s Office - reforms that many European observers agree are necessary. For example, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Court and Prosecutor’s Office must end its pattern of discrimination against Serb victims of war crimes and its deference to the wishes of the Bosniak SDA party. The International Crisis Group has criticised the Prosecutor’s Office for its failure to prosecute some of the war’s worst war crimes against Serbs (euobserver.com, BE, 25/8).

- euobserver.com, BE, 25/8, <https://euobserver.com/opinion/129929>

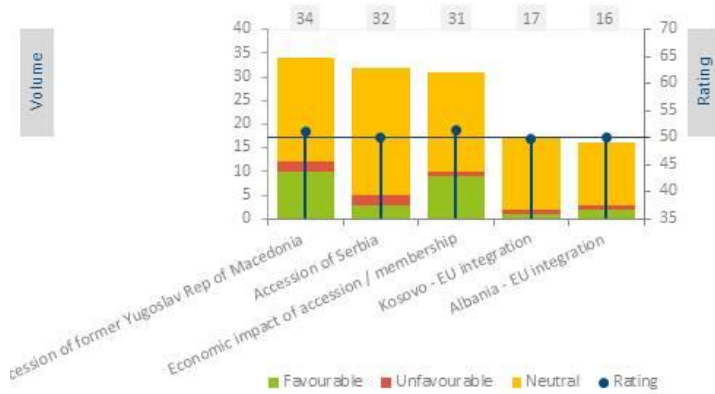
The Viennese Balkans conference is just for show

In an editorial article in the Salzburger Nachrichten AT, 25/8) Norbert Mappes-Niediek criticises the Western Balkans conference that will be held on Thursday in Vienna. He says the EU has no serious plans for an enlargement in the Balkans and those in power on the Balkans are not interested in joining the EU either, among other things because many of them worry about legal persecution. This is an ideal match, according to Mr Mappes-Niediek - one side fakes willingness to join and the other fakes willingness to expand. Jutarnji List (HR, 25/8) sees the meeting in terms of a football match “Future EU” to play against “FC EU” and wonders whether the match referee, Commissioner Johannes Hahn, will be impartial.

- Salzburger Nachrichten AT, 25/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150825/mi/item_262182630.pdf
- Jutarnji List, HR, 25/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150825/mi/item_262184559.pdf

Charts

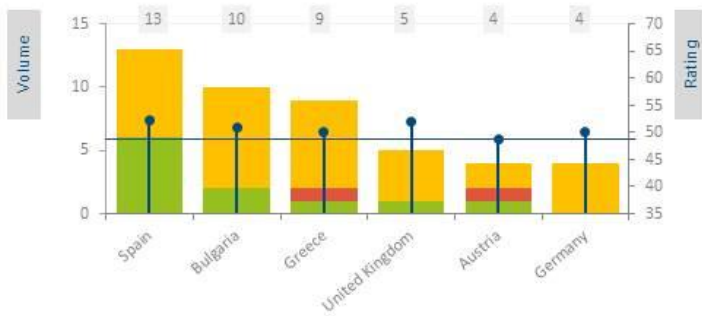
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources | Number of mentions |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia | 18 |
| Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs | 14 |
| Isa Mustafa – PM Kosovo | 9 |
| Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria | 9 |
| Jean-Claude Juncker – President EU Commission | 8 |
| Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo | 8 |
| Sebastian Kurz - FM Austria | 8 |

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