



Key Quotes

Serbia and Kosovo hail '**landmark**' agreements. Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said he now saw "**no more obstacles**" to starting negotiations over Serbia's EU accession. Serbian political analyst Dušan Janjić said the first chapters of such talks could open as early as this autumn, describing the deal as "**a compromise that is extremely favourable for Serbia**". Kosovo, which is a potential candidate for future EU enlargement, "**will also be compensated**" by the bloc for its concessions, Janjić told AFP (yahoo!, UK, 27/8).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-hail-landmark-agreements-133846131.html#Qs1a4aU>

Summary

The rise of Russian influence in the Balkan facilitated by at least two factors. On the one hand, the euro crisis has severely damaged the European narrative of a continent in constant journey towards higher levels of well-being and stability and on the other, the widespread perception that Europe has no intention, at least for the immediate future, to open the doors to new entry after that of Croatia (2013), stimulated the growth of a feeling of Euroscepticism. Not surprisingly the fall of the image of Europe has facilitated the rise to power of choices from which, in addition to Russia, China and Turkey are both increasingly active in the region. The August summit in Vienna on the Western Balkans will try to revive the European perspective (L'Unita, IT, 26/8).

- L'Unita, IT, 26/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150826/mi/item_262322275.pdf

Europe will not be the same after migration crisis;

If the hopeless migrants come from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Croatia, the latter could find itself in complete chaos, because it has no specific plans regarding the migrants. Croatia is waiting for the big centres of power to take their next steps. The Government is apparently waiting for instructions from Brussels, while the Church is waiting for Vatican. Hungary has already constructed its own Chinese Wall version, while Serbia already announced its intention to direct the hopeless towards the "very dear" Croatia and Bulgaria and the EU will again reward Serbia for its benevolent behaviour towards the migrants. It will be an EU smile for Tomislav Nikolić's and Aleksandar Vučić's Serbia. However, such indulgence will not be enough to drag Serbia away from Russia. It is clear that eurocrats do not understand the depth of the Serbian traditional myth which is prone to laud Russia. The EU could use Croatia as an intermediary in this process, but there is no guarantee that Croatia could be successful (Vecernji List, HR, 26/8). Since the EU is passing on the refugee problem from hand to hand like a hot potato, there are no guarantees that the refugee drama will not turn into a tragedy in the end (Delo, SI, 26/8).

- Vecernji List, HR, 26/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150826/mi/item_262312205.pdf
- Delo, SI, 26/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150826/mi/item_262312662.pdf

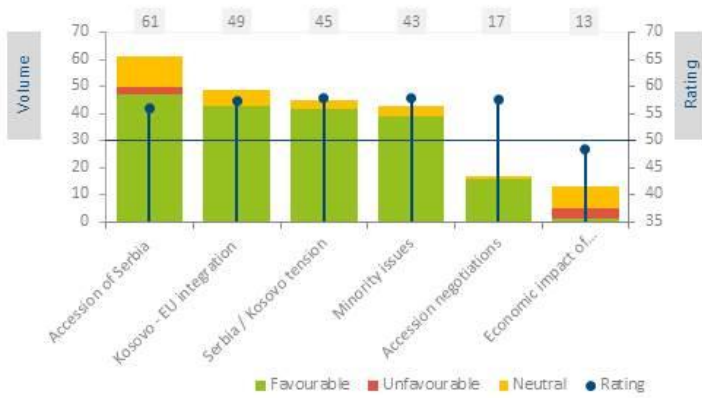
Telecommunications agreement between Serbia and Kosovo

During the talks between the delegation of Pristina and Serbia in Brussels, the sides agreed that Serbia should have its own telecommunication company in Kosovo. Member of the Serb delegation, General Dragan Vladisavljević declared "*the Serb people will continue to use everything like they have done so far*" and explaining that at Pristina's request, Austria will make an application on behalf of Kosovo about the telephone code (balkaneu.com, GR, 25/8).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 25/8, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-serbia-reach-agreement-telecommunication/>

Charts

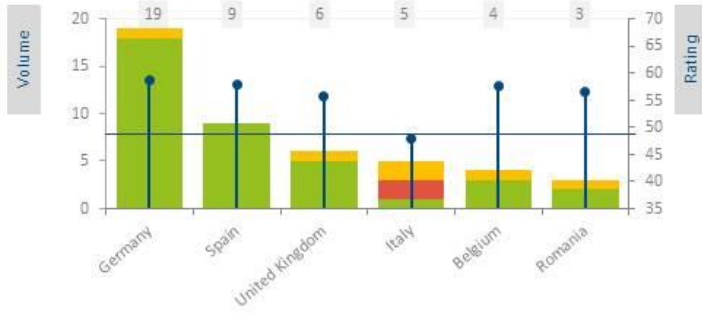
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