



## Key Quotes

'**The EU-Balkans relationship is a two-way failure,**' sates Prof. Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer, Deputy Director of the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies and Professor of History of Southeast and Eastern Europe at the University of Regensburg, adding that **"We know that potential membership is the only really strong foreign policy instrument the EU has. Without that, I fear, there will be further regression in the Balkans. Also to counter that, and to give the people in the region a perspective, a kind of Marshall Plan for the West Balkans is necessary"** (dw.de, DE, 27/8).

<http://www.dw.com/en/the-eu-balkans-relationship-is-a-two-way-failure/a-18670563>

Kosovo agreement clears Serbia's EU path. Tuesday's agreement **"is obviously a step in the right direction,"** an EU source told the website. But the source said the EU would first wait for the publication of the annual progress report in October before any formal decision to start talks is taken. **"Serbia agreed to everything the EU asked,"** a diplomat said (euobserver.com, BE, 27/8).

<https://euobserver.com/enlargement/130008>

## Summary

### Future for Europe

The European Union is not just the economic project, it is also a system of principles, EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn said in Vienna late on Wednesday, adding *"Sometimes it seems to me that certain people consider the EU to be cash machine, but it is system of values that we should share, regardless whether we are members or not"*. Hahn also said that brain drain is very serious problem adding *"it is necessary to create conditions that will keep young people in their countries"*. He went on to say *"All of us, candidate countries and member states, should ask ourselves how we can contribute to the EU project and not only how to take from Brussels"*. The EU Commissioner also criticized the NGO sector in the Western Balkans for *"not taking part in politics in their countries. Sometimes I feel like politics and civil society are running in parallel. It would be more useful if civil society could have more important role in making decisions"* (balkaneu.com, GR, 27/8).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 27/8, <http://www.balkaneu.com/eu-atm-hahn-western-balkans-leaders/>

### The civil society of the Balkans: too inconvenient for the EU?

The success of new social movements in the Western Balkans region will depend on how much outside support they receive, write political scientists Vedran [Džihić](#) and Filip Radunović in a contributing article in Die Presse (AT, 27/8). The EU should therefore accept social protest movements and grassroots civil groups as new players, listen to their opinions and offer the necessary support. The fact that civil society will be an important aspect of the Western Balkans conference is certainly also a direct result of the protests in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

- Die Presse, AT, 27/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150827/mi/item\\_262451743.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150827/mi/item_262451743.pdf)

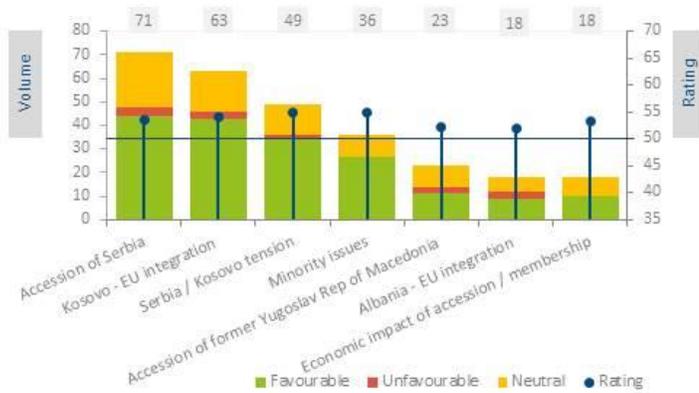
### Serbia's long memory

Erich Rathfelder writing in Die Tageszeitung (DE, 27/8) comments on the agreement the EU has brokered between Serbia and Kosovo that grants Serbs in Kosovo more autonomy with their own parliament and president. While Kosovo's prime minister and foreign affairs minister claim that Serbia now recognises Kosovo as a sovereign state for the first time, they can surely not expect an exchange of ambassadors and the elimination of diplomatic hurdles. Serbian politics is known to be long-term and persevering, meaning that politicians can go long stretches until circumstances allow them to assert their initial goals. Evidently, the EU does not think this long into the future. UK Reuters (UK, 27/8) reported that EU enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn said *"the atmosphere is such that we should very soon start official accession talks with Serbia"*.

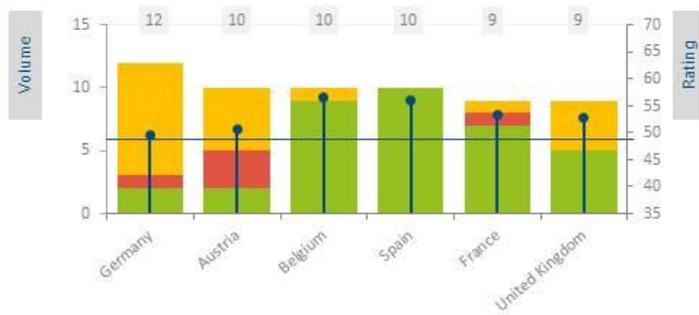
- Die Tageszeitung, DE, 27/8, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150827/mi/item\\_262431513.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150827/mi/item_262431513.pdf)
- UK Reuters, UK, 27/8, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/08/27/uk-eu-serbia-idUKKCN0QW0SK20150827>

# Charts

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



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

Volume	80 items
Rating	53.4
Favourable %	58.8%
Unfavourable %	6.2%
Neutral %	35%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	55
Aleksandar Vučić – PM Serbia	44
Isa Mustafa – Prime Minister of Kosovo	36
Johannes Hahn – Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	20
Jean-Claude Juncker – President EC	10
Werner Faymann – Austrian Chancellor	10

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