



Key Quotes

Analyst and law professor, Vilhard Shala: ***"The priorities of the government of Kosovo and new EU administration in Kosovo, must be driven by the improvement of infrastructure, fight against corruption and bureaucracy, general institutional reforms and projects in the economic and social domain. An economic and social revitalization package would take Kosovo out of economic collapse and extreme poverty. As far as EU integration is concerned, Kosovo must get ready to meet all institutional and political requirements. The most important points will be the rights of minorities, political dialogue and the harmonization of laws based on EU standards"*** (balkaneu.com, GR,31/8).

<http://www.balkaneu.com/ibna-interview-kosovos-challenges-path-eu-nato-integration/>

Summary

Vital importance of the Balkans

In a contributing article in Der Standard (AT, 31/8) Vice-President Mogherini, Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Hahn discuss the integration of Southern Europe into the EU in light of the Western Balkans conference in Vienna. They say that the countries of the Western Balkans have a clear European perspective and that focusing on joint interests is important in order to make additional progress. The current refugee crisis is an important test for the EU and the countries of the Western Balkans, according to the article.

- Der Standard, AT, 31/8, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150831/mi/item_262928592.pdf

Disagreements in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Political parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are still facing delays in the implementation of the June 2nd political agreement for the solution of the political crisis. In the meantime, political parties have their differences in relation to the election of the Special Prosecutor, which will be a new institution dealing with the investigation of the wiretapping affair and also the so called "Putsch" affair which has to do with the leader of the Macedonian opposition, Zoran Zaev, who is accused by the current party in power of espionage and of putting in danger the interests of the state. The opposition says that party in power, VMRO-DPMNE, is delaying the implementation of the agreement for the solution of the political crisis. The opposition wants the Special Prosecutor to be a separate institution from the General Prosecution while the party in power demands the special prosecutor to be part of the General Prosecution and handle the wiretapping affair (balkaneu.com, GR, 31/8).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 31/8, <http://www.balkaneu.com/solution-political-crisis-fyrom-facing-obstacles/>

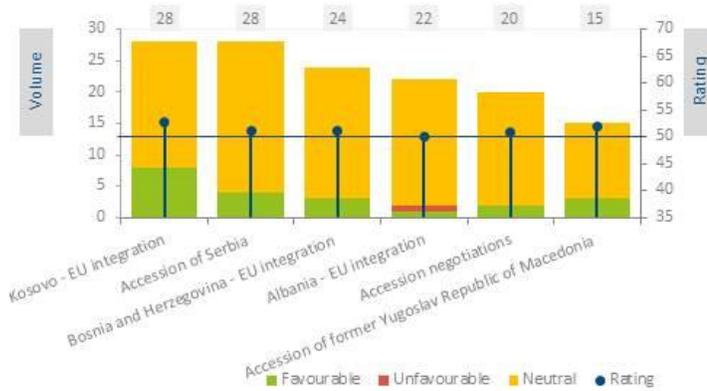
Help for Montenegro

Montenegro will receive EUR 45 million of EU grants for the advancement of rail transport and electric transmission, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović told the press following the Western Balkans Summit, which took place in Vienna on Thursday *"In addition there is a project for further modernisation of the railway and also the possibility of European funds for the development of the next section of the Bar-Boljare highway, the Mateševo - Andrijevića section"* Prime Minister Đukanović added. He believes that the policy he had advocated was finally welcomed by European institutions. *"We were saying very consistently that everything we wanted - to improve the quality of life promote freedom and ensure a greater degree of democratisation - must start from the very beginning - resolving the economic backwardness and building infrastructure as a prerequisite for starting businesses and employing people. We have every reason to be satisfied"* the Prime Minister concluded (Balkans.com, UK, 31/8).

- Balkans.com, UK, 31/8, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=206586>

Charts

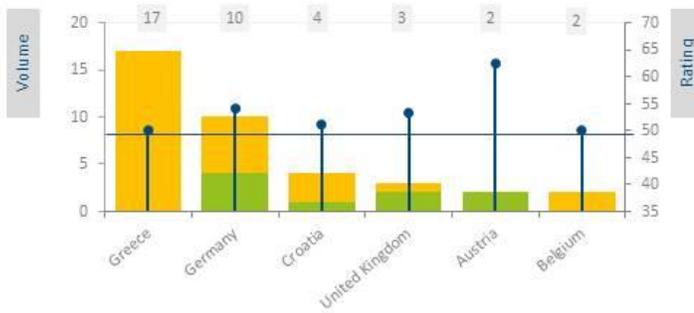
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Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	4
Günther Oettinger - Digital Economy	4
Edi Rama - Albania PM	3
Nikola Poposki - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia European Affairs	3
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