



Key Quotes

Johannes Hahn, the EU's Enlargement Commissioner, said: **"Vienna's Western Balkans Summit was an important milestone on the European road down which the Balkans are travelling. The door to the EU has been well and truly opened. The gradual accession of these countries to EU membership is in our own interests, there can't be a vacuum on Europe's borders. If we are not in the business of exporting safety and stability, then all we'll be doing in the long run is importing instability"** (euractiv.com, BE, 2/9).

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/social-europe-jobs/hahn-migration-crisis-demands-pan-european-response-317235>

Summary

Without Western Balkans EU is not perfect

Michael Roth, Minister of State for European Affairs in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the EU is committed to the enlargement to the Western Balkans. Roth has advocated the improvement of infrastructure in the region because young people should be provided with reasons to stay at home. The French Minister of State for European Affairs, Harlem Desir said *"It is necessary to support regional cooperation as well as cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkan countries"*. Like his German colleague he called for greater investment in infrastructure, particularly in transport and energy (Vecer, SI, 2/9). An agreement on infrastructure projects amounting to €615.5 million was reached at the Western Balkans conference. *"The construction and connection of transport and railway infrastructure is a driving force for the creation of jobs and growth"* says Commissioner Hahn. The EU will provide one third of the financing using IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) funds. The remaining funds are to be provided by the countries themselves as well as loans from German development bank KfW, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 2/9).

- Vecer, SI, 2/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150902/mi/item_263228224.pdf
- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 2/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150902/mi/item_263227471.pdf

Czech support for Serbia

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka yesterday assured his Serb counterpart Aleksandar Vučić that Prague supports the launch of Serbia's EU accession negotiations by the end of the year and he offered financial aid to Serbia to deal with the refugee influx. He also offered the assistance of Czech experts to Serbia in its efforts to deal with the migration crisis and accession negotiations. Vučić thanked the Czech Republic for its help. He said the number of refugees that have entered Serbia this year has reached 115,000 (praguemonitor.com, CZ, 2/9).

- praguemonitor.com, CZ, 2/9, <http://praguemonitor.com/2015/09/02/prague-supports-real-opening-serb-eu-accession-talks-year>

Humiliation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

At the Bled Strategic Forum the Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki, said that his country has, for a long time, fulfilled the conditions for accession to NATO and the EU, but this is not possible due to the Greek blockade. *"How humiliating is it that we have to put the sticker in front of our name, that of the former Yugoslav Republic? We have to bear it although many countries were born from Yugoslavia"* he said, adding *"we are obviously as good a candidate country as any other and we do not want to lose our chance of accession"* (Dnevnik, SI, 2/9).

- Dnevnik, SI, 2/9. http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150902/mi/item_263228261.pdf

Charts

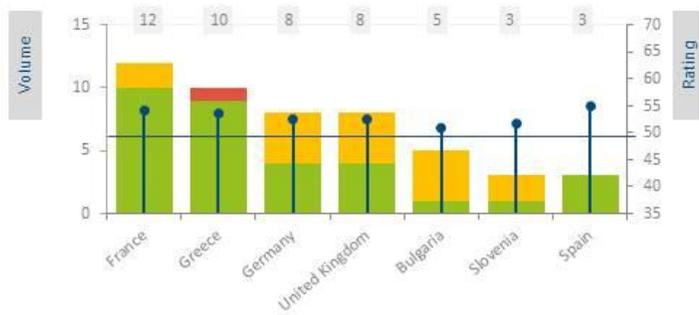
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Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – President Turkey	29
Fethullah Gulen - Turkish politician based in US	27
Maja Kocijancic (EEAS spokesperson)	21
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	6
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	4
Ali Haydar Konca (Turkey EU Affairs Minister)	3

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