



Key Quotes

Two British journalists accused of "**aiding a terrorist organisation**" have been freed from prison. The journalists' release comes a day after a strongly worded statement from the Foreign Office and Commonwealth Office (FCO) expressed concern over the arrests and reminded Turkey of its obligation to uphold freedom of expression under international agreements. An FCO spokesman said: "**Respect for freedom of expression and the right of media to operate without restriction are fundamental in any democratic society.**" "**Turkey is a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights and UN Declaration of Human Rights. We would expect the Turkish authorities to uphold the obligations enshrined in those agreements.**" (express.co.uk, UK, 3/9).

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/602809/Vice-News-journalists-arrested-terror-charges-Turkey-freed-from-prison>

Summary

Rigour, endurance and help

Markus Löning writing in *Suddeutsche Zeitung* (DE, 3/9) says that the EU should assert human rights standards in the accession negotiations with Serbia. He says it is important to allow candidates time and to support them as they establish the rule of law. However, the core ideas of the rule of law must be supported by society, which is why it is important to have broad public and political agreement in countries applying for accession. Serbia is the first candidate where the strategy of starting with the development of the rule of law has been applied. The negotiations will take years during which Serbia will receive technical and financial assistance. So far, the European Commission has not approved the action plan Serbia has presented, it should markedly increase its efforts.

- *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, DE, 3/9, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150903/mi/item_263370894.pdf

New Turkish Foreign Minister

The choice of Feridun Sinirlioğlu as foreign minister of the caretaker government of Turkey has been the focus of many political analysts in the country. Sinirlioğlu, former general secretary of the foreign ministry, was the personal choice of Ahmet Davutoğlu who insisted on his name, against the wishes of the president of Turkey. This choice is considered important as it shows the efforts of the Turkish prime minister to rebalance foreign policy. Sinirlioğlu is the man who maintained contacts with Tel Aviv and managed to bring the relationship to the point that Benjamin Netanyahu apologised to Recep Tayip Erdoğan for the attack by Israeli commandos on the Turkish ship *Mavi Marmara*. Sinirlioğlu is also the man who helped change the foreign policy of Ankara regarding the war in Syria and participated in the negotiations with the US. Important steps for the European perspective of the country are also expected very soon, with Ankara making important contacts along this path (balkaneu.com, GR, 3/9).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 3/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/turkeys-fm-countrys-foreign-policy/>

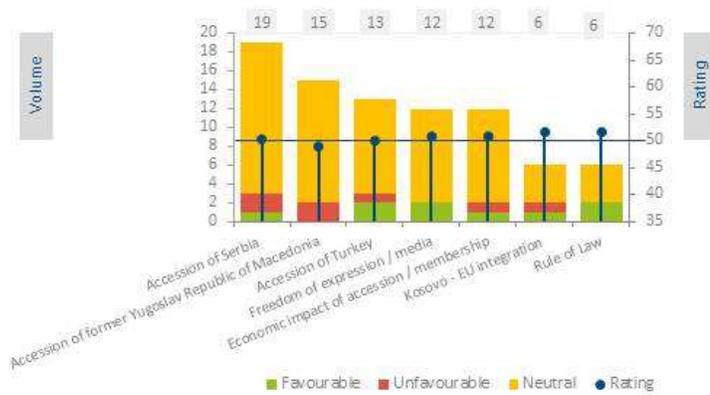
Legal wrangles in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski, has admitted his guilt for the crimes he committed with the request to separate the wiretapped phone call recordings from the evidence related to charges against high-ranking members of the ruling party. Oliver Spasovski, secretary general of the opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), made the comment, referring to the ruling of Basic Court Skopje 1, which did not allow the use of wiretapped phone calls in evidence. Gruevski confirmed the contents of wiretapped materials and proofs as well as documents published in the "*Truth about Macedonia*". "*The court ruling is illegal*" Spasovski said (focus news net, BG, 3/9).

- focus news net, BG, 3/9, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/09/03/382215/dnevnik-macedonia-court-ruling-on-wiretapped-phone-call-recordings-illegal-opposition-says.html>

Charts

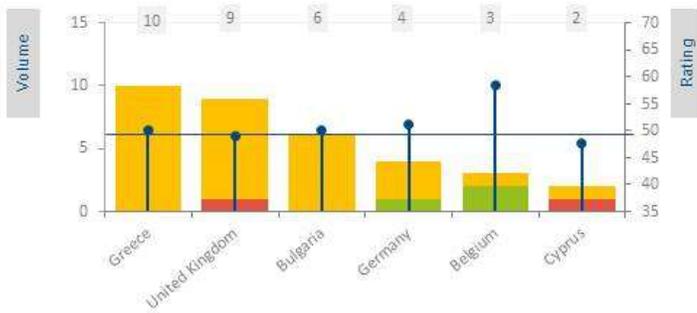
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić – FM Serbia	11
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	10
Fethullah Gulen - Turkish politician based in US	7
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	3

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