



## Key Quotes

Romania repeats offer of expertise, assistance to Serbia in negotiations to join EU. The Romanian official reasserted Romania's support for keeping the expansion policy as a priority of the EU agenda, as it substantially contributes to ensuring security, stability and prosperity in the region. **"Minister Bogdan Aurescu emphasized that Romania is closely monitoring the drafting of action plans needed by Serbia to open the chapters 23 and 24 of the accession negotiations, including the component of protection of individuals from ethnic minorities. He also asked his Serbian counterpart to support the organisation of another session of the Joint Committee on ethnic minorities by the end of 2015, to allow the bilateral examination of the extent of implementation of measures in education (the pilot course of Romanian culture and language), the religious service and media in Romanian for Romanians in eastern Serbia,"** the MAE stated in its release ([agerpres.ro](http://www.agerpres.ro), RO, 5/9). <http://www.agerpres.ro/english/2015/09/05/romania-repeats-offer-of-expertise-assistance-to-serbia-in-negotiations-to-join-eu-16-10-21>

A Dutch journalist who in January was acquitted by a Turkish court of writing propaganda for Kurdish militants has been detained in southeast Turkey **"for her own safety"** due to fighting in the area, a Turkish official said on Sunday. Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders asked the Dutch embassy in Ankara to contact both Geerdink and Turkish authorities about the latest incident, his office said Sunday. **"The Netherlands has been concerned about freedom of the press and freedom of speech in Turkey for some time,"** spokesman Roel van der Meij said. **"This remains an important point in our relations with Turkey"** (Yahoo!, UK, 6/9).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/dutch-journalist-says-she-arrested-again-turkey-094049437.html#V86LZ2L>

## Summary

### Reaction to the Western Balkans Summit

Despite leaving a very bad aftertaste, the second Western Balkans summit held in Vienna last week actually turned out to be quite successful because it brought out the real problems faced by European integration of the Western Balkan countries, namely bilateral disputes and the refugee crisis. So far, the common impression continues to be of the EU being not too sure as a community of what to do with these states. For Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, for example, if the EU fails to find the correct approach to the Western Balkans it will lose them and for German Chancellor Angela Merkel the key to the Western Balkans is Serbia ([euinside.eu](http://euinside.eu), BG, 4/9). Angela Merkel hailed the dialogue between Serbia and Albania, initiated last year by the Serbian and the Albanian Prime Minister's after a hundred years of silence, as an example of good practice (Delo, SI, 4/9).

- [euinside.eu](http://euinside.eu), BG, 4/9, <http://www.euinside.eu/en/news/germany-puts-serbia-at-the-centre-of-eu-western-balkan-enlargement>
- Delo, SI, 4/9, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150904/mi/item\\_263562687.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150904/mi/item_263562687.pdf)

### Despite Serbia not being a European Union member state it is ready to share the burden of the current refugee crisis with the EU

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić says Serbia's plan is to demonstrate a responsible and serious approach, as well as empathy and solidarity with the refugees. Serbia strives to provide medical and other assistance to the refugees and at the same time avoids blaming anyone for the current situation, the premier underlined adding that Serbia is ready to be part of the solution.

Considering the humanitarian crisis in Hungary, where Prime Minister Viktor Orban took a rigid stance towards the refugees in order to *"defend Christianity"*, Vučić said that Serbia has good relations with Budapest and it doesn't want to spoil them, but that he cannot be satisfied with the border barrier ([balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), GR, 4/9).

- [balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), GR, 4/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/vucic-appeals-solidarity-refugees/>

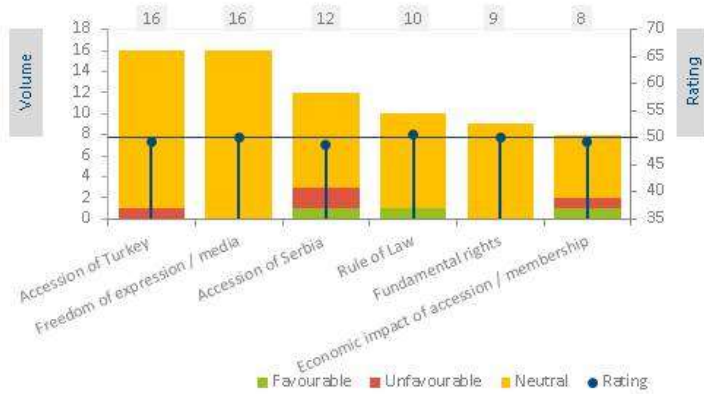
### The judicial system in Kosovo continues to be selective

The system offers an unequal treatment for people with power and the common people. When the son of Prime Minister Isa Mustafa, Besnik Mustafa, was threatened, the person who made the threat was sentenced within a day. *"The case of Alban Morina is a clear indicator of the fragility and selective justice approach which is being made by prosecution and courts in Kosovo. Investigation, prosecution and conviction of the case in question took place within a very short period of time. This has an impact on public perception which believes political intervention is unavoidable"* says Besnik Musliu, Head of the Institute for Justice ([balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), GR, 4/9).

- [balkaneu.com](http://balkaneu.com), GR, 4/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-selective-judicial-system/>

# Charts

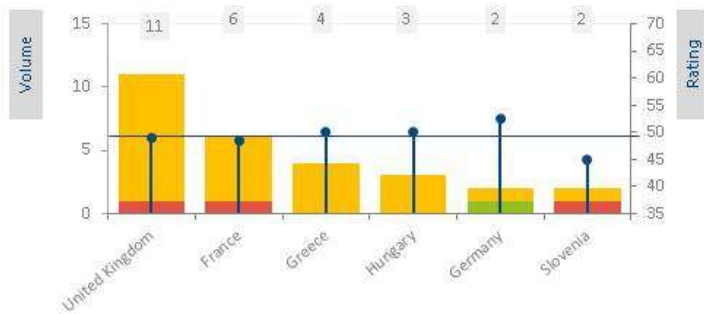
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	8
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	6
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	2
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	2
Ivica Dačić – FM Serbia	2

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