



## Key Quotes

German Chancellor Angela Merkel praised Serbia's recent efforts to abide by EU guidelines, with particular reference to the normalization of relations with Kosovo. There had been "**significant substantive progress**," Merkel said, adding that the move had provided a "**very important stimulus**" for enabling EU accession negotiations (dw.de, DE, 7/9).

<http://www.dw.com/en/germany-and-serbia-to-work-more-closely-amid-refugee-crisis/a-18697919>

## Summary

### Corruption and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia speaking to BBC news explained that the accession of his country and other Balkan countries will improve the situation in terms of dealing with the migrant crisis, the fight against organized crime and corruption, "*the alternative of leaving these countries outside the EU family would definitely be a source of destabilization*." (BBC 1 News, UK, 7/9). Meanwhile in a Court in New York Slobodan Bogoevski, former head of the secret police, confirmed he had mediated corruption. He stressed he had established the first contacts through Greek oligarch Dimitris Kondominas in 2005 and 2006. They mainly aimed at offsetting the effects of the law on electronic communication, which envisaged market liberalisation. Court documents contain the names of former Prime Minister Vlado Bučkovski as well as of two senior members of the Democratic Union for Integration, who took bribes estimated at EUR 2.5 million (focus-news.net, BG, 7/9).

- BBC 1 News, UK, 7/9, <http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150907/mi/6000-663738-001.mp4>
- focus-news.net, BG, 7/9, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/09/07/382500/vecer-macedonia-senior-govt-members-accepted-bribes-from-magyar-telecom.html>

### Important year for Kosovo

Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa, declared 2015 to be a year of great challenges and decisions for the country. "*During this year, we took important decisions, starting with the voting of the Special Tribunal, the demarcation of the border with Montenegro and the Brussels' agreement on the normalization of relations with Serbia. In the days to come, we will look for the best way of transforming our Security Forces into the Army of Kosovo*" Mustafa declared. Mustafa also mentioned the loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund. "*The loan agreement will help investment which will generate economic development. It will enable us to develop many regional infrastructure projects which are important for the economy of the country*" he said (balkaneu.com, GR, 7/9).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 7/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-faces-great-challenges-decisions/>

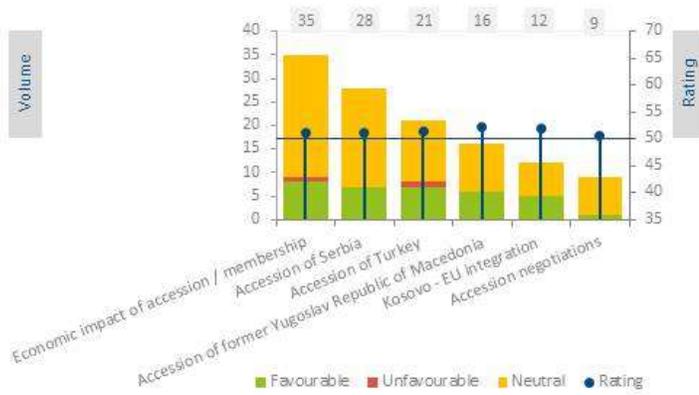
### The loss of innocence

In a guest article in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (DE, 7/9), Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu, expounds on the picture of the lifeless body of the three-year old boy washed up on a beach in Turkey, whose death has become a symbol of the humanitarian catastrophe overtaking Europe. Expressing his hope that people can assume responsibility and act together so that unnecessary deaths can be prevented, Mr Davutoğlu also recognizes that such tragic pictures are only fleeting in many people's memories. He criticizes the idea of building walls around Europe and shifting all the burden onto Turkey, arguing this will not work and is not compatible with European values. Europe must act together he says.

- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 7/9, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150907/mi/item\\_263896054.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150907/mi/item_263896054.pdf)

# Charts

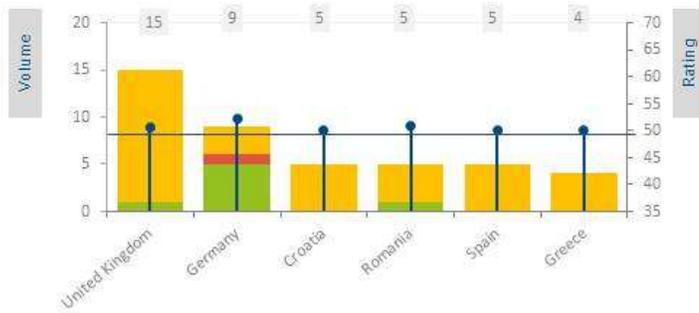
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| Angela Merkel - German Chancellor              | 5                  |
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| Victor Ponta - PM Romania                      | 4                  |
| Ahmet Davutoğlu - PM Turkey                    | 3                  |

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