



Key Quotes

Head of the Serbian Negotiating Team for accession talks with the EU, Tanja Miscevic, announced that Serbia will receive a positive assessment of its advancement in the field of energy in a new report by the European Commission on country progress in the EU accession process, which should be released in early October. Speaking at a press conference on the impact of the EU energy and climate policy on the oil economy of the region held in the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Miscevic said that **"the energy sector is defined in Chapter 15 of the negotiations between Serbia and EU,"** and stressed that **"this chapter is closely linked to Chapter 27, which relates to environmental protection and climate change"** (balkans.com, UK, 8/9).

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=206815>

In an open letter to Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, organised by press freedom organisation English PEN, writers, journalists and freedom of speech campaigners called for the release of a journalist working for Vice News in Turkey: **"We urge you to allow the media in Turkey to report fully and freely on events and to release all journalists held solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression"** (theguardian.com, UK, 8/9).

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/sep/08/hanif-kureishi-among-80-writers-calling-for-release-of-vice-journalist-in-turkey>

Summary

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia celebrates 24 years of independence

Pande Lazarevski, Ambassador of the Republic to Romania, said independence had turned the country into a developed democracy, economically strong, advanced and successful; cherishing old traditions of coexistence, acceptance and respect for diversity, securing welfare and solidarity while creating fertile conditions for innovation and new technologies. He went on to say that despite the various challenges, the country had managed to attain its rightful place in various global, regional and sub-regional organizations adding, *"Although much has been achieved, we still face challenges on our European and Euro-Atlantic path. 2015 marks 10 years since we became a candidate country, years filled with reforms implemented, work and a firm conviction in our European future. For Macedonian citizens, NATO means security and the European Union means prosperity. Together, they mean peace"* (nineoclock.ro, RO, 8/9). However the state continues to face a name dispute with Greece and there is tension with Bulgaria. Domestically there are ethnic problems between the Macedonian community and Albanians, as the second largest community with 26% of the population. Albanians, who did not participate in the voting for the referendum on independence on 8 September 1991, are not yet happy with their rights (balkaneu.com, GR, 8/9).

- nineoclock.ro, RO, 8/9, <http://www.nineoclock.ro/h-e-mr-pande-lazarevski-ambassador-of-the-republic-of-macedonia-in-romania-24-years-of-independence/>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 8/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/fyrom-celebrates-24th-anniversary-independence/>

Serbia's coalition faces problems

Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić met repeatedly with a gangster later convicted of cocaine smuggling, according to videos published on KRIK, a site set up by journalists to expose corruption. Although rumours of Dačić's connections to fugitive Rodoljub Radulović had long been circulating, this is the first concrete proof of the links between the two. There is speculation in the Serbian press that the growing scandal could force Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić's government to call early elections. The videos, published on September 7, date back to 2008 and 2009, when Dačić was deputy prime minister and interior affairs minister and were filmed by the Serbian intelligence agency using hidden cameras as part of their surveillance of Radulović (bne.eu, UK, 8/9).

- bne.eu, UK, 8/9, <http://www.bne.eu/content/story/serbian-foreign-minister-linked-gangster>

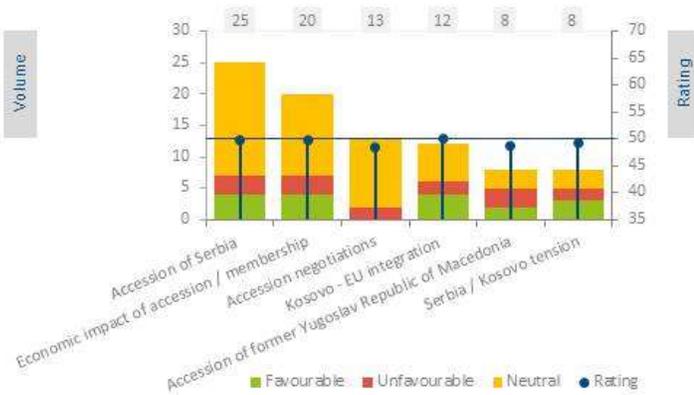
Reduced migration for Balkans

German chancellor, Angela Merkel, has displayed a sharper tone towards economic migrants. About 39 per cent of migrants are from the western Balkans and primarily seeking better economic opportunities. Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro will soon be added to Germany's list of safe countries of origin. Berlin is also looking at creating a legal route for migrants from the western Balkans to work or take up apprenticeships in Germany. The coalition is considering a proposal to take 20,000 Balkan migrants every year, for the next five years.

- Financial Times, UK, 8/9, [Link not available]

Charts

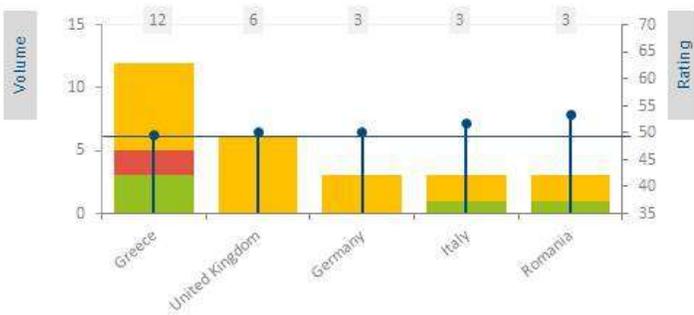
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Volume	30 items
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Favourable %	16,7%
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Neutral %	73,3%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	17
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	15
Edi Rama - Albania PM	4
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	4
Viktor Orban - Hungarian Prime Minister -	2

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