



Key Quotes

"Alarming" decline in media freedom as Turkey fights militants. At least 140 journalists have been fired over the last couple of months, according to a report from the EU-funded Press for Freedom Project. **"There is no sign of hope. Press freedom is declining in Turkey,"** said Yusuf Kanli, a columnist for the Hurriyet Daily News (hri.org, CY, 16/9).

<http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2015/15-09-16.tcpr.html#11>

Summary

Erdoğan to visit Brussels

The European Union voiced concern about the arrests and warned any country seeking to join the EU needs to guarantee respect for human rights, including freedom of expression. Turkey is a long-standing candidate for membership of the 28-nation EU, beginning its accession talks in 2005 but the process has been bogged down for years over complaints of its human rights record (Yahoo!, UK, 15/9). Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will pay a visit to Brussels on October 4 where he will meet with European Parliament President Martin Schulz and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to touch upon issues including PKK terror and the refugee crisis affecting Turkey and Europe. Ankara has so far experienced contradicting actions and remarks coming from the EU regarding the PKK. Whereas the EU, from time to time, offered collective help in the fight against terror, some countries have refused to extradite arrested PKK terrorists. Another issue of utmost importance to Ankara is the refugee crisis. Home to more than 2 million refugees, Turkey has been the primary country by far in bearing the refugee burden, spending over \$6 billion (Famagusta-gazette.com, CY, 16/9).

- Yahoo!, UK, 15/9, <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/alarming-decline-media-freedom-turkey-fights-rebels-092802006.html>
- Famagusta-gazette.com, CY, 16/9, <http://famagusta-gazette.com/erdogan-to-visit-brussels-next-month-pkk-on-agenda-p29723-69.htm>

Dialogue helping Kosovo

In spite of obstacles, dialogue with Serbia is helping Kosovo's integration in Euro Atlantic structures. Edita Tahiri, Minister for Dialogue, in Kosovo, says that although this process has many setbacks, it's yielding results. *"We will sign the Association and Stabilization Agreement with the EU in October thanks to the talks and the delivery of reforms.* According to her, Serbia cannot advance in the EU integration path if it doesn't apply the agreements signed with Kosovo (balkaneu.com, GR, 16/9).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 16/9, 16/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/dialogue-condition-kosovos-serbias-integration/>

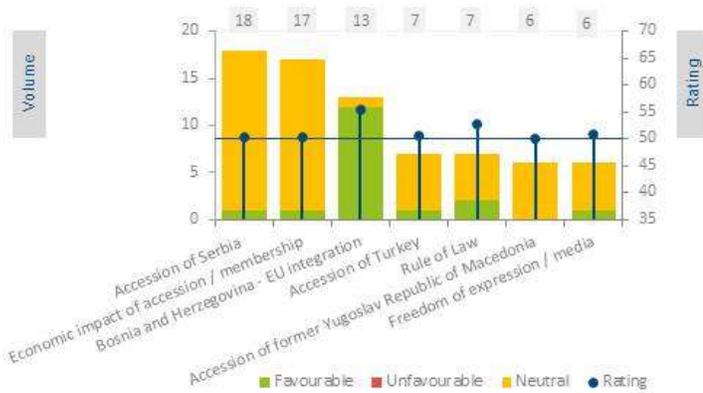
Serbian reforms please US

The reform success of Serbia is very important for the United States while Serbia is the key for the stability of the whole Western Balkans, US Vice-President Joe Biden after meeting with Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić in Washington on Tuesday. Biden has praised economic measures of Vučić's cabinet as well as Serbia's efforts at coping with corruption. *"The significant interest of American companies to invest in Serbia shows that we are on the right path"* Premier Vučić said in Washington. He said he was satisfied with the *"level of respect"* for Serbia in US, but added that much more should be done in order to *"reach American standards"*. Vučić also met the representatives of the World Bank (balkaneu.com, GR, 16/9).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 16/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/biden-serbia-key-western-balkans-stability/>

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Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	13
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Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	7
Katica Janeva - special prosecutor former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5
Nikola Gruevski – PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	4

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