



## Key Quotes

Serbia's behaviour in the migrant crisis was "**excellent**", and the country has great potential to open, later this year, the first negotiating chapters with the EU, according to Christian Danielsson, director general for Enlargement at the European Commission in Brussels. Serbia, he added, has made considerable progress in the preparatory work ahead of the opening of the first chapters, and has also made progress in the dialogue with Pristina and in the reform of its justice system - a crucial issue for the opening of chapters 23 and 24. "**If you take into account all this**" Danielsson said speaking to Tanjug, "**it is very likely that the first negotiating chapter between Serbia and the EU will be opened later this year**" (ansamed.info, IT, 30/9).

[http://www.ansamed.info/nuova\\_europa/en/news/sections/news/2015/09/30/serbia-eu-towards-opening-first-chapters-by-the-end-of-2015\\_abcd7585-4348-409c-ad4c-16fdbb16ba6a.html](http://www.ansamed.info/nuova_europa/en/news/sections/news/2015/09/30/serbia-eu-towards-opening-first-chapters-by-the-end-of-2015_abcd7585-4348-409c-ad4c-16fdbb16ba6a.html)

## Summary

### EU sends positive signals to the Western Balkans

The attitude toward EU enlargement has changed considerably. Brussels strategists nonetheless expect the accession of the Western Balkan countries to the EU in the medium term. The EU has learned lessons from the hasty accessions of Bulgaria and Romania. Serbia's Chief Negotiator, Tanja Mišćević, says that according to Simon Mordue, director of enlargement in the European Commission, these apply to the negotiation chapter, there are now strict benchmarks for the opening and conclusion. Judicial affairs, rule of law and fundamental rights are tackled early, with advances in this area considered a measure for the speed of the negotiations. In the accession negotiations there are at least 70 possibilities for each member state of the EU to lodge a veto. Nevertheless, the question is not if the countries of the Western Balkans will join the EU but when, Mr Mordue reaffirms (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 30/9).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 30/9, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150930/mi/item\\_267389445.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150930/mi/item_267389445.pdf)

### Kosovo military a step closer

Speaking in New York, Kosovo Foreign Minister Hashim Thaçi, said Kosovo was granted NATO's consent for the formation of its own army, Serbian online news edition Politika writes. According to Thaçi, now the consent of the parliament in Pristina was needed. He met there with US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Todd Chapman (focus-news.net, BG, 30/9). The Serbian Mission to the UN, according to Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić, has submitted an official note of protest to the United Nations for the presence of representatives of Kosovo at the conference on terrorism organized in United States. The UN said that it was a private meeting organized by the US and that is why Kosovo was treated as an independent state (ANSA, IT, 30/9).

- focus-news.net, BG, 30/9, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/09/30/384703/politika-serbia-nato-agreed-to-formation-of-kosovan-army-hashim-thaci-says.html>
- ANSA, IT, 30/9, [http://www.ansa.it/sito/notizie/mondo/nordamerica/2015/09/30/serbia-protesta-per-kosovo-allonu\\_e315dcfa-a28a-4399-b5af-23a9e810f246.html](http://www.ansa.it/sito/notizie/mondo/nordamerica/2015/09/30/serbia-protesta-per-kosovo-allonu_e315dcfa-a28a-4399-b5af-23a9e810f246.html)

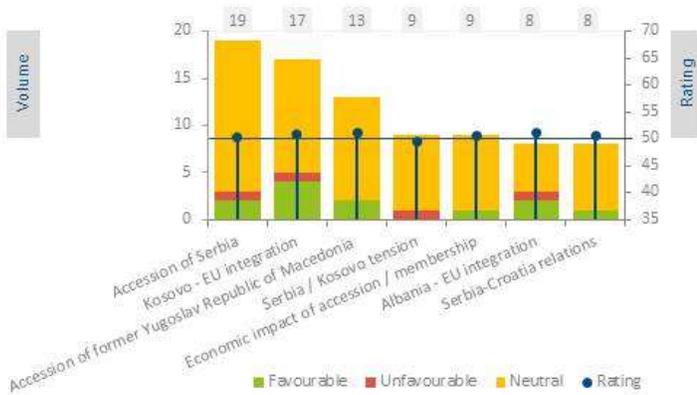
### Better relations in the Balkans

Few would question that the EU-mediated negotiations have brought Kosovo and Serbia closer to each other and are contributing towards a more stable Balkans. The high-level dialogue has broken down communication barriers and addressed essential issues, on freedom of movement, customs, border controls, education and telecommunications. In a TV debate Serb Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić recently noted that good relations between Albanians and Serbs are the key to stability in the region. All this is good but we need to start seeing relaxed relations and a little friendship also between Albanian PM Edi Rama and Vučić. A more genuine reconciliation will happen when all countries in the Balkans accept their past, especially Serbia, which still hasn't apologised for past crimes (euobserver.com, BE, 29/9).

- euobserver.com, BE, 29/9, <https://euobserver.com/opinion/130475>

# Charts

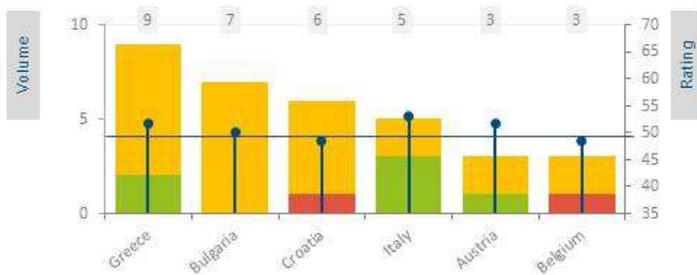
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by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	6
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	5
Nikola Poposki – European Affairs former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5
İsa Mustafa - PM Kosovo	5
Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria	5
Zoran Milanović - PM Croatia	5

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