



Key Quotes

The Head of Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia Section for the Western Balkans and Enlargement Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Graham Styles paid an official visit to Tirana. He reassured about the United Kingdom's support for Albania's aspirations to join the European Union. While he welcomed the progress achieved so far, Mr. Styles underlined that if the justice reform is done properly and in an irreversible manner, it would constitute a decisive step towards EU accession. **"We know that this is a politically controversial issue and that it requires difficult political decisions, but it worth doing"** Styles said (gov.uk. UK, 6/10).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/uk-supports-albania-in-eu-but-the-reforms-should-be-irreversible>

Summary

Erdogan has a trump card

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's president, can offer something that the EU desperately needs: assistance to curb the influx of refugees. That gives him a strong hand in negotiations on other issues, following years of sometimes frosty relations with the bloc. Erdoğan is likely to want political compensation in return for his help, speculates Teresa Kuchler in an analysis for Dagens Nyheter (SE, 6/10). He also wants the EU to recognise Turkey as a safe country, which would indicate that there is no risk of persecution and oppression there. Such recognition by the EU would be a political triumph. Le Soir (FR, 6/10) notes that the European Commission wants to establish "*mutual confidence*" with Turkey, but it remains unclear how the partnership is supposed to actually materialise. The Independent (UK, 6/10) comments that the welcome for Mr Erdoğan contrasted with the cool reception Turkey has received over the past two decades over its bid to join the EU. Mr Erdoğan underlined that Turkey's stalled EU accession process should be revitalised and "*devoid of artificial political considerations*".

- Dagens Nyheter, SE, 6/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151006/mi/item_268282907.pdf
- Le Soir, FR, 6/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151006/mi/item_268259587.pdf
- The Independent, UK, 6/10, [Link not available]

Postponement of EC report on Turkey

The European Commission has surprisingly postponed the release of its annual progress report on Turkey's EU membership application process, amid a key visit to the EU capital by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during which the growing refugee crisis tops the agenda, Hurriyet reported. EU sources, speaking to Cihan news agency on October 5, confirmed that the release of the report scheduled for October 14 has been postponed to October 21. The sources said some EU members objected to the fact that the original release date would immediately follow a planned EU summit set for October 13. The EU has been especially critical of the recent intensification of the crackdown on media in Turkey (focus-news.net, BG, 5/10).

- focus-news.net, BG, 5/10, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/10/05/385315/eu-postpones-progress-report-on-turkey.html>

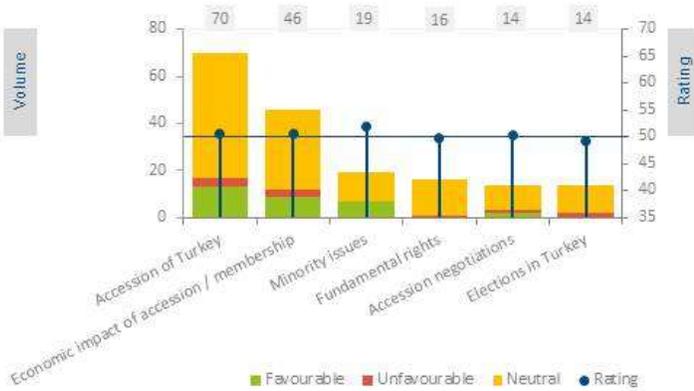
Deadline for political solution in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the process of talks to create a new Central Electoral Committee, electoral code and the voting rights of the diaspora is being monitored by the EU emissary, Peter Van Hoyte. Political analyst, Naser Ziberi told IBNA that if the agreement is made in the last minute under strong pressure, is not productive and it allows political parties to accuse each of having reached damaging compromises (balkaneu.com, GR, 6/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 6/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/political-parties-fyr-macedonia-delaying-implementation-political-agreement/>

Charts

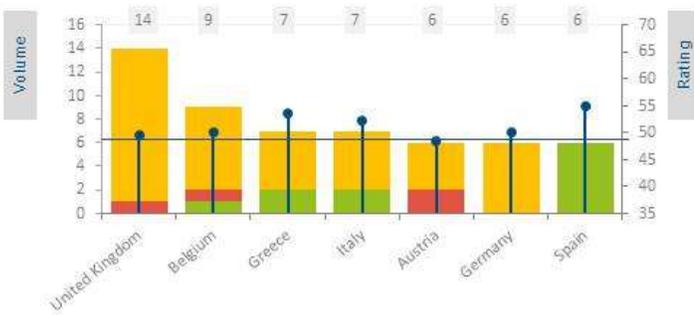
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	70
Jean-Claude Juncker - EC President	40
Donald Tusk - European Council President	37
Martin Schulz - EP President	29
Margaritis Schinas - EU	5
Mina Andreeva, Spokesperson EC	4

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