



Key Quotes

The European Commission has announced an additional €17m to help Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia cope with the refugee crisis. Commenting, Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, said: **"We have to work hand in hand with our partners and neighbouring countries beyond EU borders which are most affected. This fresh funding available to authorities in Belgrade and Skopje, who have already done a lot to tackle the issue, is an important signal of continued European solidarity"** (paneuropeannetworks.com, BE, 8/10).

<http://www.paneuropeannetworks.com/government/migrant-crisis-eu-approves-extra-aid-to-serbia-and-fyrom/>

An opposition lawmaker in Kosovo set off what appeared to be a smoke bomb in parliament on Thursday, in a deepening political standoff over an EU-brokered deal to improve ties between Serbia and its former southern province. **"No one has the mandate nor the right to bring Serbia back into Kosovo,"** an opposition bloc said in a statement. **"We will not let this happen"** (uk.reuters.com, UK, 8/10).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/10/08/uk-kosovo-parliament-idUKKCN0S21BY20151008>

Summary

Serbian-Albanian tension

A bus carrying Serbia's national football team was hit by stones within hours of the team arriving in Albania October 7 for a Euro 2016 qualifier, prompting a diplomatic protest from Serbia. Before the stoning incident, Albania had stepped up security for the politically-charged match, determined to prevent a repeat of the fan and player violence that broke out a year ago. Serbian federation spokesman Aleksandar Bošković called it a *"small incident"* but Serbia's foreign ministry said it had prepared a protest note. Video broadcast on Serbian media showed streets lined with people and at least two stones striking the bus and cracking a window. No one was hurt but Serbia said the incident raised doubts over security. Serbia's foreign ministry said it had summoned Albania's ambassador, Ilir Bocka, but that he had refused to receive Serbia's protest note. There was no immediate word from the Albanian embassy (rferl.org, CZ, 8/10).

- rferl.org, CZ, 8/10, <http://www.rferl.org/content/tensions-between-serbia-albania-high-ahead-of-soccer-match/27294288.html>

Balkans should be at the centre of Europe's thinking

"Moscow places the Balkans in the centre of its geopolitical interests which could bring instability" said Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev, speaking at the summit meeting on New Visions for Partnership and Neighbourhood in Europe held in the Bulgarian capital Sofia adding that Bulgaria backs the EU membership of our neighbours but added that membership is not handed out by Brussels but gained through reforms, good neighbourly relations and shared values. He said he was concerned that the policy of the great powers neglects the sovereignty and the will of the separate nations and that this can bring further instability. The Bulgarian Head of State commented further that the history had taught that Europe was most easily destabilised through the Balkans and thus Europe should stop looking at Southeast Europe as a periphery but rather as the centre of the European geopolitical interest (focus-news.net, BG, 8/10).

- focus-news.net, BG, 8/10, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/10/08/385625/bulgaria-president-moscow-places-balkans-in-centre-of-its-geopolitical-interests.html>

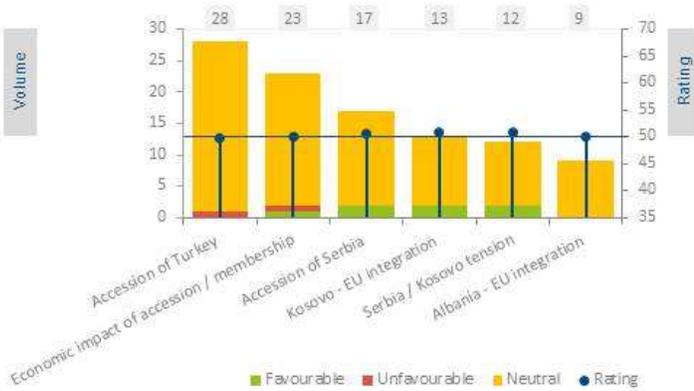
Parliamentary deadlock in Kosovo

Opposition MPs in Kosovo have decided to block once again parliamentary proceedings. The leader of AAK parliamentary group, Donika Kadaj Bujupi, said that until the demands of the oppositions are met parliamentary proceedings will be blocked. *"This government has only two possibilities: to withdraw or to stand down. We call upon the government to withdraw from the agreements that damage Kosovo and then return to parliament and proceed with the normal day to day business, but not in this form"* Kadaj said. Meanwhile, the head of the parliamentary group of Self Determination, Glauk Konjufca, said that the despots of the majority have broken their oaths as MPs (balkaneu.com, GR, 8/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 8/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/opposition-kosovo-blocks-parliamentary-proceedings/>

Charts

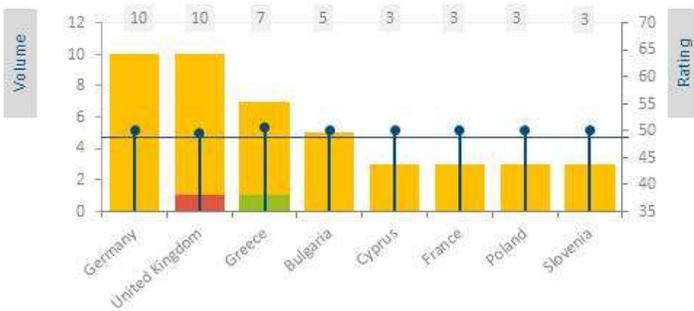
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
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Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	6
Edi Rama - Albania PM	4
Jean-Claude Juncker - President -EC	5

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