



Key Quotes

Serbia's candidacy to join the European Union depends on the number of refugees it agrees to accept, according to a Serbian politician. The Balkan country could become a vast camp for refugees, who are largely Syrians fleeing the civil war to seek asylum within the EU, said Bosko Obradovic, chairman of the Devri faction, reported Sputnik News. **"Serbia must oppose the dictate from Brussels that plans to turn Serbia and other Balkan states into the largest refugee reception point, an immigrant colony, as it might thus become another condition of Serbia joining the European Union,"** Obradovic said (ibtimes.com, UK, 12/10).

<http://www.ibtimes.com/eu-refugee-crisis-serbia-quota-condition-pending-european-union-membership-will-turn-2137179>

EU ministers in Luxembourg said plans by the Serb entity in the Bosnian federation to hold a referendum on the powers of the national court **"would challenge the cohesion, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of"** the country. It added that the move would also harm **"progress in EU integration"** (euobserver.com, BE, 12/10).

<https://euobserver.com/tickers/130642>

Summary

Turkey the powder keg

In this commentary Michael Backfisch writing in the Hamburger Abendblatt (DE, 12/10) fears that the recent terror attack in Ankara was only the beginning of a new wave of violence, turning Turkey into a powder keg. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has only worsened the situation by announcing simultaneously fighting the IS and PKK in order to establish himself as the strong man in politics. Overall, the EU is in a difficult situation - Brussels and NATO have never been more dependent on Turkey's good will, as illustrated by Jean-Claude Juncker *"paying homage"* to Mr Erdoğan during his recent visit. La Croix (FR, 12/10), underlines that the EU needs Turkey's support to face the influx of migrants. The joint action plan drawn up by both sides, which still needs to be approved, reveals what the EU's and Turkey's priority issues are. The EU's first concern is to reduce and control the inflow of refugees from Syria, while President Erdogan wants Europe's support in his fight against the Damascus regime. German MEP Ska Keller warned that it could be a *"dangerous pact"* for Europe and many in Brussels fear that the refugee crisis will overshadow the reproaches the Commission has been addressing to Ankara for years regarding human rights, the independence of justice and freedom of speech.

- Hamburger Abendblatt, DE, 12/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151012/mi/item_269180995.pdf
- La Croix, FR, 12/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151012/mi/item_269173823.pdf

Serbia resists EU policy towards Kosovo

In addition to the Ukrainian, the financial and the refugee crisis, the EU might face a new Balkan crisis. Brussels has pushed the Western Balkans to one side while unresolved issues in the region have been piling up. Serbia has resisted EU policy towards Kosovo and called into question the continuation of the Brussels dialogue. If Serbian President Nikolić is a Eurosceptic, Prime Minister Alesander Vučić embodies the European idea. In this context it is worrisome that the Serbian Prime Minister, too has threatened to boycott the dialogue with Priština (Delo, SI, 12/10).

- Delo, SI, 12/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151012/mi/item_269201084.pdf

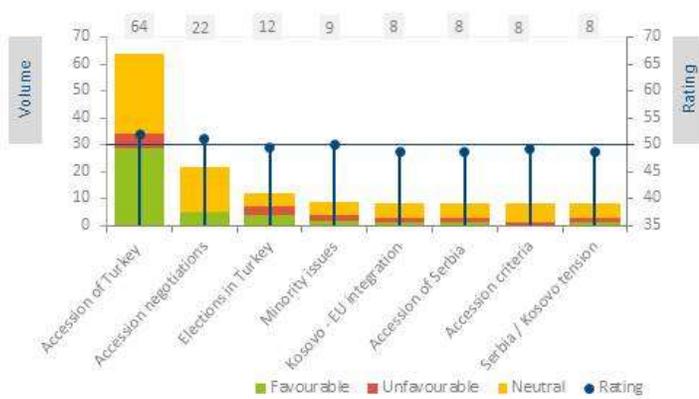
Political tension in Kosovo

Opposition in Kosovo declares that in order for normal parliamentary proceedings to resume, the Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, must withdraw from the agreement with Serbia for the creation of the Association of Serb Communes and the agreement with Montenegro for the border demarcation. The leader of Self Determination Party, Visar Ymeri said *"Our main focus is to stop political and financial interventions from Serbia in Kosovo. This is the main aspect of the united opposition against the Brussels' agreements"* (balkaneu.com, GR, 12/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 12/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/opposition-kosovo-continues-put-pressure-pm-mustafa/>

Charts

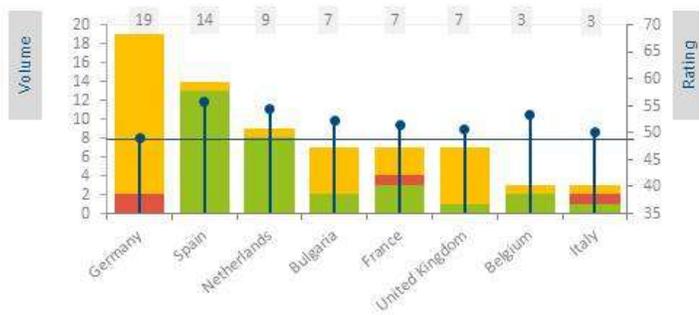
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	44
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement	31
Frans Timmermans - First VP - Better Regulation	24
Jean-Claude Juncker – President EC	16
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	15

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