



Key Quotes

A summit of EU leaders in Brussels on Thursday will discuss sweeteners for Ankara, capping the most sudden transformation in the country's EU fortunes for decades and moving Turkey from the human rights doghouse to a feted partner on Europe's biggest political crisis. **"I had not understood the depth of the panic,"** said one senior figure closely involved in the talks. **"They are showering him with gifts. I have never seen the EU so forthcoming to Turkey, never. They're producing everything. It is like Santa Claus has arrived"** (ft.com, UK, 14/10).

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/14d82844-7293-11e5-bdb1-e6e4767162cc.html#axzz3obbkrRke>

Summary

Little progress in talks

Kosovo and Serbia have expressed their readiness to continue the talks for the normalization of relations. During the meeting on Tuesday the High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Frederica Mogherini, declared that she had received assurances from both sides for the implementation of the agreements, especially the one that was reached on August 25 on the Association of Serb Communes. (balkaneu.com, GR, 14/10). However, in Kosovo opponents of Brussels dialogue with Belgrade resorted to violence again and the Serbian government is threatening to boycott the dialogue, accusing Brussels of trying to prejudge Kosovo's status. Serbian Prime Minister Vučić explained that he had decided to attend the informal dinner with Mogherini and Mustafa so that no one could accuse Serbia of not being willing to talk. He noted that the topic to be discussed will only be the progress made thus far in the normalisation of relations and further steps towards realisation of the Brussels agreement, but not the EC's negotiating platform for the opening of Chapter 35 which refers to Kosovo (Delo, SI, 14/10). Belgrade has denounced new strong pressure from Brussels for direct or indirect recognition of Kosovo's independence. Marko Đurić, the head of the Serbian government's Office for Kosovo-Metohija, stated there is a new amendment to the draft platform for Chapter 35 of the country's EU pre-accession talks (ANSA, IT, 14/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 14/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-serbia-pledge-implementing-brussels-agreements/>
- Delo, SI, 14/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151014/mi/item_269527941.pdf
- ANSA, IT, 14/10, http://www6.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2015/10/14/serbia-denunciata-nuova-condizione-ue-si-a-kosovo_0ad05d2a-98d6-49fc-8fb2-396dcf40cd7b.html

Time to speak plainly about Turkey

It is short-sighted of the EU to offer the Turkish government political goodwill and money-for-refugees, writes Elisabeth Özdalga in an opinion piece for Svenska Dagbladet (SE, 14/10). Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's president, is in the process of turning the country into a fascist dictatorship, she suggests, noting in particular the recent clampdowns on media. Furthermore, she notes, there are now very real fears of a civil war. The EU is a peace and democracy project and should not ignore what is happening in Turkey simply because its government is currently in a position to host refugees concludes Özdalga.

- Svenska Dagbladet, SE, 14/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151014/mi/item_269529984.pdf

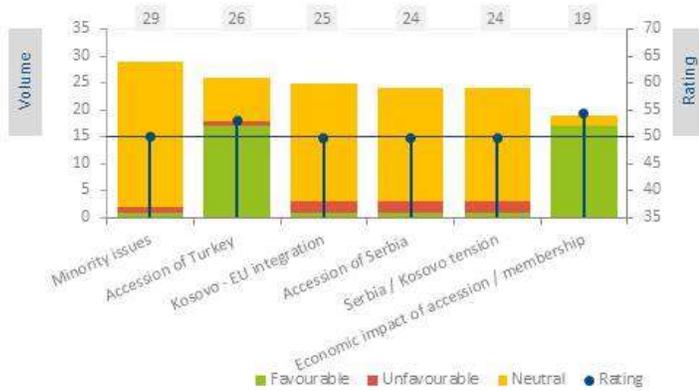
Large budget for prosecution of wire-tapping scandal

In Skopje the authorities have approved a new set up institution which will investigate the wiretapping affair in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The head of the Special Prosecution, Katica Janeva, is asking 1 million euros every three months and a staff of over 100. The annual budget is expected to be around 4 million euros or 8 times more than the budget for the Prosecution of Organized Crime (balkaneu, GR, 14/10).

- balkaneu, GR, 14/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/investigation-wiretapping-affair-8-times-funds-prosecution-organized-crime/>

Charts

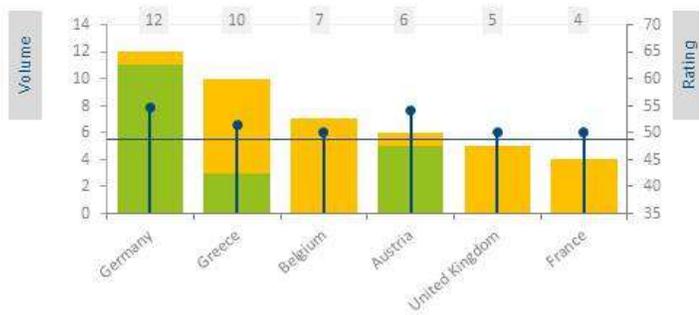
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Albin Kurti . Politician Kosovo	23
Cecilia Malmström - Trade	17
Isa Mustafa - Prime Minister Kosovo	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	4
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	3

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