



## Key Quotes

Chancellor Merkel has said Germany will support Turkey's EU membership bid, during a visit aimed at securing Ankara's help in stemming a migrant influx to Europe. Merkel spoke of organizing the accession process "**more dynamically.**" "**Germany is ready this year to open Chapter 17, and make preparations for (Chapters) 23 and 24. We can talk about the details,**" she said (dw.de, DE, 18/10)

<http://www.dw.com/en/germany-ready-to-support-turkeys-eu-accession-process-says-merkel/a-18789797>

## Summary

### The return of the Kosovo crisis

An analysis in Die Presse (AT, 16/10) discusses the return of the Kosovo crisis. The rapprochement of the unwilling neighbours pushed by the EU is stalling on several fronts. Violent protests recently shook up Kosovo's capital Pristina: the radical opposition aims to prevent the establishment of the community of Serbian municipalities agreed upon with Belgrade. The Serbian government, on the other hand, faces a dilemma: if Belgrade wants to join the EU, Serbia will have to at least accept an independent Kosovo. Silke Mühlherr, Die Welt (DE, 16/10), reports on the disappointment in Serbia over a new document detailing demands. A European Commission spokesperson made clear that the document is the European Commission's and the EEAS' comprehensive evaluation of the progress made thus far. "*I do not understand why our partners humiliate us with such demands*" Aleksandar Vučić said. Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić commented: "*We have been betrayed by Europe*". Nevertheless, a majority of Serbs believes the future of their country is within the EU and back Mr Vučić's pro-EU course. The Süddeutsche Zeitung (DE, 16/10) notes Nikolić's further comment "*If Serbia recognizes Kosovo, it will come to civil war* to say that it was a sign that Brussels' policies were "*brutal and without a soul*".

- Die Presse, AT, 16/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item\\_269900515.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item_269900515.pdf)
- Die Welt, DE, 16/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item\\_269878783.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item_269878783.pdf)
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 16/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item\\_269878770.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item_269878770.pdf)

### Albania to manage its own funds

A new agreement which will be signed this year, enables Albania to manage its EU funds for the first time. Minister of Integration, Klajda Gjoshka confirmed the financial agreement which will be signed soon and expressed her conviction that Albania will benefit from more funds from the European Union. According to Mrs. Gjoshka, the report says that most of the conditions that were laid out were delivered within all deadlines. Gjoshka also said that reform in public administration is not something that ends today and that "*it cannot be completed with a magic wand*" (balkaneu.com, GR, 16/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 16/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/albania-manage-eu-funds-time/>

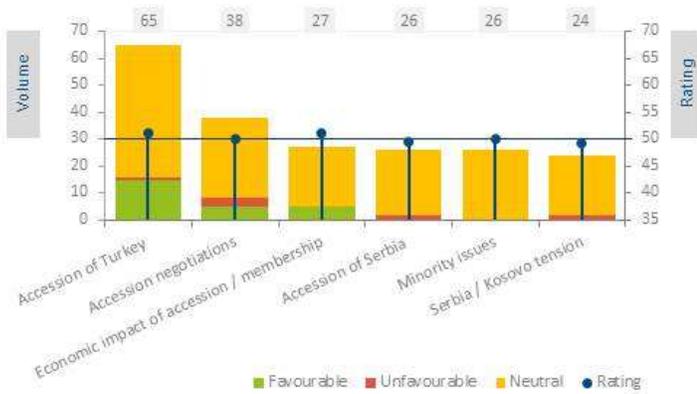
### The EU has to give in to Turkey for its 'support' in the refugee crisis;

De Tijd (BE, 16/10) reports that Europe had already promised to release an extra €1 billion support to help Turkey face the crisis and now Europe will have to give in on '*difficult*' issues, such as granting Turkey the status of a safe country and progress in the negotiations on Turkey's accession to the EU. It is also noted the European Commission's reminder that the EU countries have to fulfil their commitments did not miss its effect.

- De Tijd, BE, 16/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item\\_269914843.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151016/mi/item_269914843.pdf)

# Charts

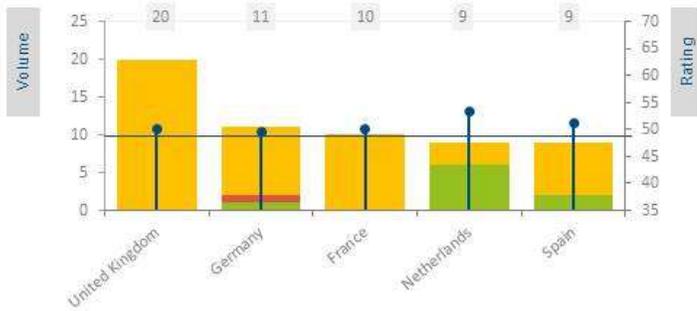
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| Angela Merkel - German Chancellor             | 25                 |
| Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC            | 23                 |
| Donald Tusk - European Council                | 16                 |
| Frans Timmermans - First VP Better Regulation | 16                 |
| Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg | 9                  |

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