



Key Quotes

UNESCO's executive board has voted to recommend Kosovo as a full member state, despite fierce opposition from Serbia. Earlier in the day, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić said the executive board's decision would **"certainly not be good for Serbia,"** and that Serbia wanted the topic to be postponed until 2017 and discussed as part of EU-brokered negotiations to improve ties between Belgrade and Pristina. Whatever UNESCO's executive board decides, **"Serbia will continue the fight for the recommendation to be rejected,"** Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić said (rferl.org, CZ, 21/10).

<http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-serbia-unesco-membership/27319064.html>

EU membership more elusive than ever for Turkey. **"The European Union has downgraded issues related to human rights and democracy in Turkey. The number one issue for Europe is to stem the flow of refugees,"** said Fadi Hakura, a Turkey analyst at Chatham House. **"Turkey's regression in terms of democracy and freedom have fed European doubts over Turkey's quest to join the European Union, but in reality from the absolute beginning the bilateral relationship has been governed by mistrust and by uneasiness. Many European leaders do not want Turkey to join the club, whereas in Turkey itself the desire to join Europe was mainly for economic reasons, rather than to improve the quality of democracy and human rights in the country,"** he said (sigmalive.com, CY, 21/10).

<http://www.sigmalive.com/en/news/international/136522/eu-membership-more-elusive-than-ever-for-turkey>

Summary

Enthroned Merkel seems to endorse despotic regime

The writer of a letter in the Financial Times (UK, 21/10) says they were appalled by the lack of sensitivity (or ignorance) shown by Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, in choosing to visit Turkey at this time. By sitting enthroned together with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the Yıldız Palace in Istanbul, she has in effect endorsed an equally despotic regime two weeks before the crucial elections on November 1. Not content with the election results in June, Mr Erdoğan undermined attempts to form a coalition government and now hopes to regain control of the Turkish parliament through new elections. What is equally appalling is the tacit support given by the European Commission to Mr Erdoğan's regime by postponing the publication of a highly critical annual report on Turkey until after the elections. In the *Gazet van Antwerpen* (BE, 21/10), Lex Moolenaar writes that one of the lessons that should be drawn from the migrant and the Russian crises is that the EU is no longer united. The EU's enlargement process was too fast. Such a context is not favourable for the re-launch of enlargement negotiations with a complex country like Turkey. Mr Moolenaar concludes that other EU member states should remind Ms Merkel that she cannot do everything she likes.

- Financial Times, UK, 21/10, [Link not available]
- *Gazet van Antwerpen*, BE, 21/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151021/mi/item_270642926.pdf

Progress report of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Fatmir Besimi, declared that the EU progress report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will depend on the results of the talks for the solution of the political crisis. Besimi was on a tour of Brussels where he held meetings with senior officials of the European Commission. *"In the meetings with EU senior officials, the main topic of discussions was the progress report and the process of talks which aim at overcoming the political crisis. Macedonia must implement the political agreement of June 2 and the package of reforms for the integration of the country in the EU. This will be reflected in the progress report"* he said (balkaneu.com, GR, 21/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 21/10, [Link not available]

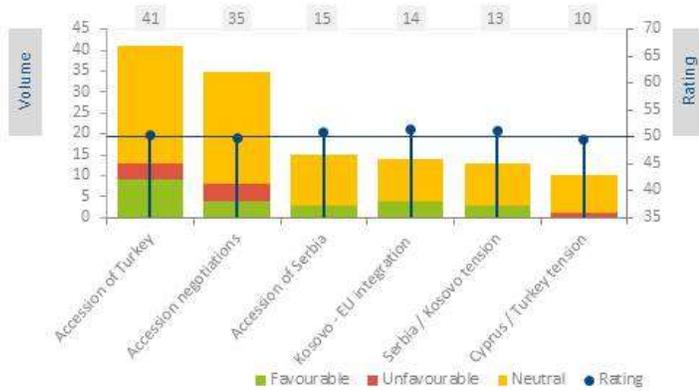
Tension in Kosovo

The opposition in Kosovo is warning the government not to hold another session of parliament unless it withdraws from deals with Serbia and Montenegro. After meeting on October 20 with President Atifete Jahjaga, three opposition leaders said the governing coalition shouldn't provoke with another parliamentary session because that would escalate the situation (rferl.org, CZ, 20/10).

- rferl.org, CZ, 20/10, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-opposition-warns-over-holding-parliament-session/27316825.html>

Charts

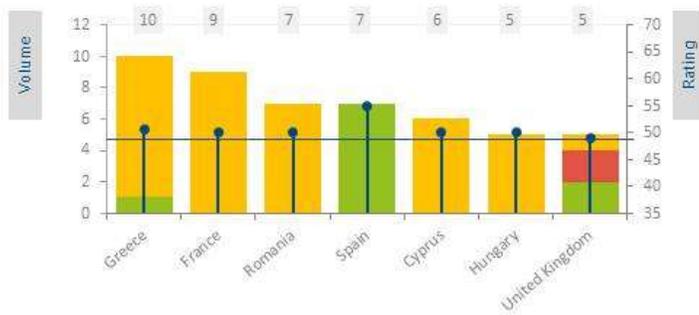
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Unfavourable %	6.9%
Neutral %	74.1%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	18
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	10
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	10
Federica Mogherini - HR Foreign Affairs	7
Mina Andreeva - Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	7

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