



## Key Quotes

The European Union said it will sign next Tuesday a long-awaited accord with Kosovo on closer ties which could open the way to membership for the small Balkan country. **"Once implemented, it will bring more economic prosperity, legal certainty, government accountability and political stability to the people of Kosovo,"** EU foreign affairs spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic said. Diplomatic sources told AFP that some member states had reservations about Kosovo's rights record but felt it was better to have them on board than not. **"Let us be frank -- they have made some progress but not at all as much as we would have liked,"** one diplomat said (yahoo!, UK, 22/10).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/eu-kosovo-sign-association-accord-next-week-104301996.html#mBaOXMD>

The Bulgarian Foreign Ministry called for a prompt solution to the political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a special statement issued on Thursday: **"Finding a prompt solution to the political crisis is highly imperative and deserves utmost support. It would demonstrate responsibility and commitment on the part of both the incumbents and the opposition towards the European choice of Macedonian society. The status of the Republic of Macedonia as an EU candidate country requires a leadership role of its government and a clear political will on the part of everyone involved to implement the accords of June 2 and July 15. This would create prerequisites for an unconditional return to the process of reforms, which have no alternative in view of the country's European and Euro-Atlantic integration"** (bta.bg, BG, 22/10).

<http://www.bta.bg/en/c/DF/id/1191985?PageSpeed=noscript>

## Summary

### Serbian acknowledgment of Kosovo would result in civil war

Serbian political leaders are appalled at Berlin's demand for Belgrade to back down when it comes to Kosovo. Serbia is trying to force the opening of the first chapters in its accession negotiations with the EU and Berlin still has no interest in paying out any reward to Belgrade, which does not want to indulge Priština more than needed. Support for the EU however, has been dropping in Serbia. According to President Nikolić, Serbia cannot move closer to the EU under present circumstances. If Serbia acknowledged Kosovo's independence, a civil war could erupt because it would break the significant link between Serbs and Kosovo (Delo, SI, 22/10).

- Delo, SI, 22/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151022/mi/item\\_270802279.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151022/mi/item_270802279.pdf)

### EU Commission President Juncker versus Commissioner Hahn: Turkey issue splits EU Commission

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker instructed First Vice President Frans Timmermans to travel to Ankara. Yet as several sources confirm, the decision concerning Mr Timmermans' Turkish mission was not made without difficulty. Commissioner Hahn believed dispatching him in the run-up to the Turkish elections to be problematic, but was outvoted. This is why Mr Timmermans led the initiative as well as the refugee crisis task force, to which Mr Hahn and Commissioners Avramopoulos and Stylianides as well as Vice President Federica Mogherini belong. The dispute reflects the mood throughout Europe, that offers to cooperate with Ankara are not appreciated everywhere (Die Presse, AT, 22/10). Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz has criticised the fact that €3 billion will be paid to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for keeping refugees in Turkey. While he is in favour of cooperating with Turkey, the Austrian minister advocates the safeguarding the external borders of Europe. Asylum applications also ought to be able to be filed in refugee centres on site in order to *"remove the basis of the people smugglers businesses"* he says (Die Presse. AT, 22/10).

- Die Presse, AT, 22/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151022/mi/item\\_270829534.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151022/mi/item_270829534.pdf)
- Die Presse. AT, 22/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151022/mi/item\\_270829538.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151022/mi/item_270829538.pdf)

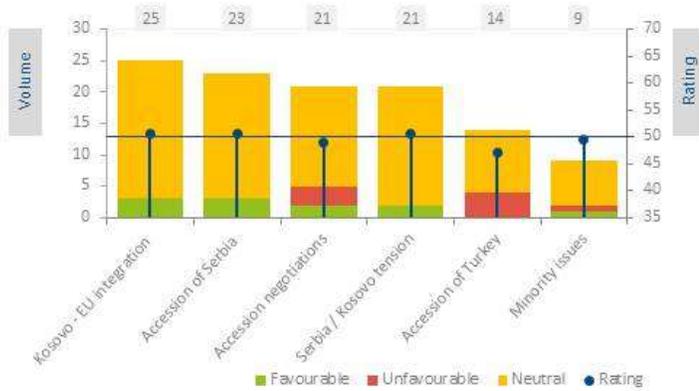
### Hungarian support for Serbia

Hungary's Prime Minister Victor Orbán, in an interview given to the Hungarian public service television channel M1 said that different types of problems had emerged in the Balkan countries. He took the view that today the most stable country in the region is Serbia as it had the most stable political leadership, adding that it must be made clear that the EU takes Serbia's EU membership seriously; *"We shall support Serbia in Brussels, partly out of good neighbourly relations and partly out of our own national interests"* the Prime Minister stated (kormany.hu, HU, 22/10).

- kormany.hu, HU, 22/10, <http://www.kormany.hu/en/the-prime-minister/news/european-leaders-have-no-authorisation-for-what-they-are-doing>

# Charts

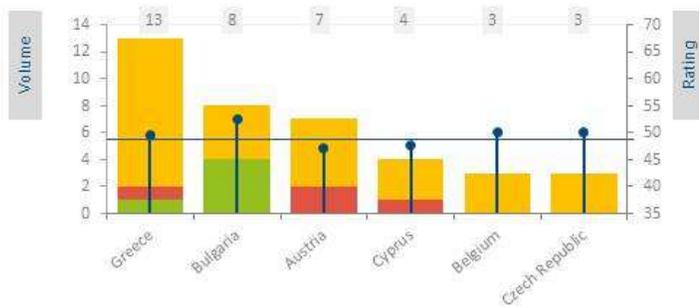
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by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	14
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	13
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	12
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	11
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	9
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	9
Federica Mogherini -	7

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