



Key Quotes

Slovenia backing Montenegro's EU, NATO bid. Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar said that the process of EU enlargement to the entire Western Balkans should continue with "**unreduced speed**" (sloveniatimes.com, SI, 26/10).

<http://www.sloveniatimes.com/slovenia-backing-montenegro-s-eu-nato-bid>

In the report, Balancing Act: Press freedom at risk as EU struggles to match action with values, the Committee to Protect Journalists emphasized how important it is that the EU press for substantive changes in the candidate-countries for EU membership. The EU, the report found, can influence democratic reforms in accession states, as was the case, for instance, with Croatia. As Marc Pierini, a Carnegie Europe scholar and a former EU ambassador to Turkey, told CPJ: "**Press freedom was indeed an explicit requirement in the Croatian membership discussions. Therefore, the Croatians took the measures that were expected - mainly, changes in their legislation - because they knew that was the indispensable key to their acceptance in Brussels**" (euobserver.com, BE, 26/10).

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/130829>

Summary

Refugee crisis is different to Euro-Turkish relations

Het Financieele Dagblad (NL, 26/10) comments on the possible enlargement of the EU with Turkey. It notes that the Copenhagen criteria of 1993 are very clear but, it goes on to say in 1995 Romania did not succeed in becoming member because it failed to meet the requirements yet the country became a member state in 2007, although still not meeting all the requirements. If Turkey is taking steps towards EU membership it will be beneficial for both the European Union and Turkey and, although it would be unwise to ignore the Copenhagen criteria for opportunistic reasons, closing the door completely to Turkey would be even worse. However, Phileleftheros (CY, 26/10) reports that Greek MEPs Eva Kaili and Nikos Androulakis submitted a written question to Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, asking them to separate Turkey's EU accession path from the response to the refugee crisis. The two MEPs also expressed their concern at the change in the stance of the EU against Turkey, noting that over the past two months Turkey has been failing on all Copenhagen Criteria and making reference to what they say is an unjustified delay in the publication of the Progress Report on Turkey.

- Het Financieele Dagblad, NL, 26/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151026/mi/item_271330946.pdf
- Phileleftheros, CY, 26/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151026/mi/item_271355814.pdf

Unrest in Montenegro

Police in Montenegro on Saturday fired tear gas for the second successive weekend to break up around 5000 protesters who marched at the parliament demanding snap elections and the resignation of veteran Prime Minister Milo Đukanović. Demonstrators attempted to break through a police cordon at the parliament building (euobserver.com, BE, 26/10).

- euobserver.com, BE, 26/10, <https://euobserver.com/tickers/130837>

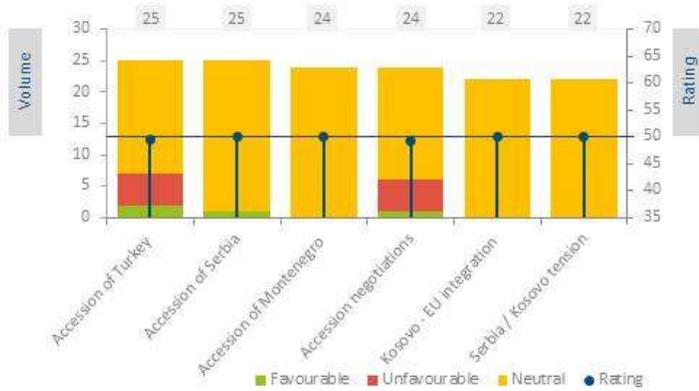
Political crisis in Kosovo continues to escalate

In the last parliamentary session, once again the opposition let off tear gas to make it impossible for Members of Parliament to carry on with the normal order of the day. On Saturday, a large number of protesters clashed with police after midnight. The highest authorities in the country and international institutions have criticized the opposition, urging it to use parliament in order to convey its concerns. US ambassador, Greg Delawie said that tear gas and violence have no place in the parliament of Kosovo and such actions are destroying its future he said. Meanwhile, the opposition has pledged to continue and block normal parliamentary proceedings until the agreements reached in Brussels between Kosovo and Serbia as part of the framework of the dialogue to normalize relations are annulled (balkaneu.com, GR, 26/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 26/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/political-crisis-kosovo-escalates-2/>

Charts

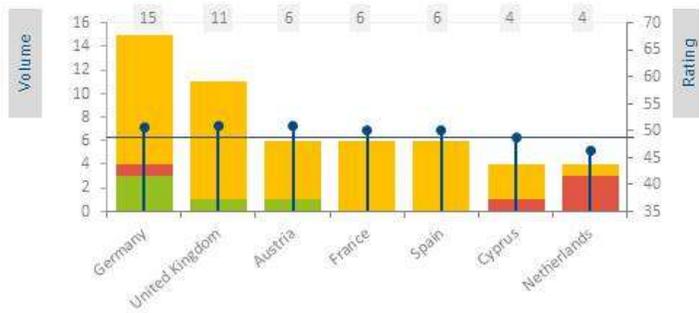
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	18
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	12
Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC	9
Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	8
Markus Soder - German politician	7

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