



Key Quotes

Kosovo took a step towards possible European Union membership, signing a trade and political pact with Brussels. **"It is a milestone in our mutual relationship, in particular for the European aspirations of Kosovo,"** EU Commissioner for Enlargement Johannes Hahn said during the signing ceremony in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. **"I am convinced (the agreement) is going to bring a lot of good to Kosovo's people, to the European Union and to the stability and integration of the region,"** EU Foreign Affairs chief Federica Mogherini added (uk.reuters.com, UK, 27/10).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/10/27/uk-eu-kosovo-idUKKCN0SL1U220151027>

Europe should not **"harp on"** at Turkey about its record on human rights, the European Commission president has said, as he admitted the EU was dependent on the state for solving refugee flows. **"We face two possibilities and these are the options. We can say that the EU and the European institutions have outstanding issues with Turkey on human rights, press freedoms and so on. We can harp on about that but where is that going to take us in our discussions with Turkey?"** Jean Claude-Juncker added: **"We know that there are shortcomings but we need to involve Turkey in our initiatives. We want to ensure that no more refugees come from Turkey into the European Union"** (telegraph.co.uk, UK, 27/10).

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/11957432/EU-should-not-harp-on-at-Turkey-about-human-rights-says-Jean-Claude-Juncker.html>

Summary

Kosovo on the threshold of EU membership

Kosovo is the last south-eastern European country to sign an EU Association Agreement. But the country still has a long road to EU membership. Kosovo's minister for EU integration, Bekim Çollaku, said in an interview with Deutsche Welle (DE, 27/10). The goal of the agreement is to create required conditions before accession talks with the EU are initiated. In doing so, Kosovo commits itself to implementing the necessary reforms, while the EU assumes responsibility for providing the country with additional support. Kosovo's government is aware of the fact that this first step is being taken despite many challenges, like the recent blockades and violence in the Kosovar parliament. *"Kosovo has very modern laws. The problem is enforcing them, because only a constitutional state and a sound judicial infrastructure will attract foreign investors. And foreign investments are needed"* said the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo. The Daily Mail (UK, 27/10) notes that the EU has been Kosovo's main supporter with about 1.3 billion euros in development aid for 2007-2020. Five EU member countries that do not recognize it have, nevertheless, approved the agreement.

- Deutsche Welle, DE, 27/10, <http://www.dw.com/de/kosovo-an-der-schwelle-der-eu/a-18806044>
- The Daily Mail, UK, 27/10, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3291322/Kosovo-signs-SAA-agreement-EU.html>

Hahn interview

In an interview with El País (ES, 27/10), Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, analyses what is said about Turkey's potential EU membership and the refugee crisis. Arguing that differentiating between refugees and migrants, rather than closing borders, is crucial to deal with the crisis, Commissioner Hahn underscores that *"the real challenge is for refugees to agree to be sent to this or that country."* As regards to Turkey, he notes that the ongoing discussions on the improvement of the customs union and on visa liberalisation mean *"a new dynamic allowing us to accelerate the accession proceedings"*.

- El País, ES, 27/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151027/mi/item_271532061.pdf

Visit of Montenegrin PM to Slovenia: Enlargement process has not slowed

During his official visit to Slovenia, Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Đukanović said that not even protests of the opposition would stop Montenegro on its way to Euro-Atlantic integration. He expressed his gratitude for Slovenia's support and help in negotiations on EU membership with the Union and accession to NATO. He noted that Slovenia's knowledge was valuable to Montenegro and helped manage the challenges emerging in negotiations with the EU. He underlined that the Slovenian development model had always been an inspiration. President Pahor meanwhile said he believed that the fast advancement of Montenegro in accession negotiations with the EU proves that the enlargement process has not died down (Delo, SI, 27/10).

- Delo, SI, 27/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151027/mi/item_271528663.pdf

Charts

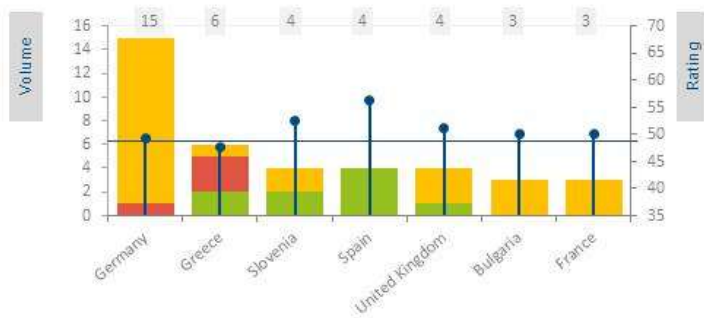
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| Federica Mogherini - HR Foreign Affairs | 5 |
| Donald Tusk - President European Council | 5 |
| Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM | 5 |
| Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg | 5 |

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