



Key Quotes

A European Commission report on Turkey, held back until after next Sunday's election to avoid antagonising President Tayyip Erdoğan, accuses Ankara of backsliding on the rule of law, freedom of expression and judicial independence. **"The outgoing government has made efforts to reinvigorate the EU accession process,"** it says. **"However, this commitment was offset by the adoption of key legislation in the area of the rule of law, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly that ran against European standards."**(uk.reuters.com, UK, 28/10)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/10/28/uk-turkey-election-eu-idUKKCN05M2CR20151028>

Summary

Turkey needs to 'upgrade' its democracy says former President

After seven years as Turkey's President and five years before that as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Abdullah Gül portrays himself as an elder statesman content to dispense wisdom from the side-lines, not a politician thirsting for one last draught of power. To a society aghast at the rising tide of war, terrorism and political polarisation inside and outside its borders, Mr Gül, who was modern Turkey's first Islamist head of state, projects a reassuring figure of calm, experience and moderation. In London, Mr Gül chose his words carefully. But he alluded to his concern that a greater concentration of power in the hands of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, his successor as President risked damaging Turkish democracy. Mr Gül drew attention to the success in Turkey's June election of the Peoples' Democratic party, a left-wing, pro-Kurdish movement which attracted 13 per cent of the vote and entered parliament for the first time, winning 80 seats. *"I consider that to be positive for Turkey. It's always been my approach and my belief, that problems should be solved by engaging with parties, not excluding them"* he said (Financial Times, UK, 28/10).

- Financial Times, UK, 28/10, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3818e70a-7cbe-11e5-98fb-5a6d4728f74e.html#axzz3pqfQ1KvM>

The Balkans: Refugee chaos hides political unrest

Chaos reigned in the streets of Montenegro and Kosovo last weekend. Protesters and the police clashed in street riots. The EU is threatening the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with international isolation similar to Belarus as its politicians are deeply hostile to each other and unable to agree compromises. The question in Kosovo is how the Serbian minority can be integrated into the state. The opposition in Montenegro plans to overthrow head of government Milo Đukanović. The economic and social distress in the three states is worsening which will likely speed up emigration (Kronen Zeitung, AT, 28/10).

- Kronen Zeitung, AT, 28/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151028/mi/item_271705545.pdf

Serbian visit to Moscow

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said in Moscow that Serbia has proven its sincere friendship towards Russia by not imposing any sanctions on it despite many pressures coming from around the world. Serbia will continue that policy in the future, Vučić told a joint press conference after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev. Vučić thanked Russia for its support in UNESCO and assistance in protecting Serbian interests in the UN Security Council. He said that during the meeting he and Medvedev discussed the continuation of cooperation in the field of agriculture, defence and economy and expressed the opinion that Serbia and Russia will be able to build better relations in the future (Balkans.com, UK, 28/10).

- Balkans.com, UK, 28/10, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=208138>

Charts

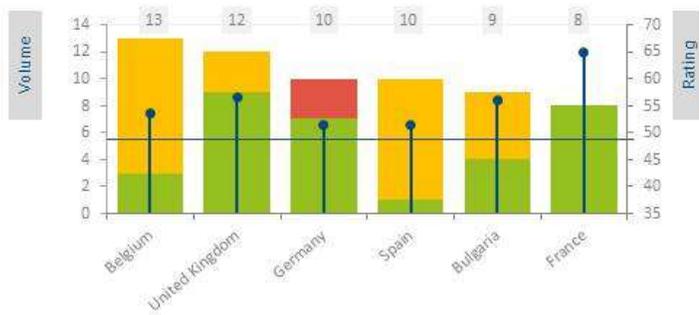
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Isa Mustafa - Prime Minister Kosovo	48
Federica Mogherini - HR Foreign Affairs	46
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	45
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	8
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	7

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