



Key Quotes

Turkey: Journalists condemn '**unprecedented**' crackdown on media ahead of elections. Tarik Toros, editor-in-chief of Bugun newspaper, called the recent action the "**biggest crackdown on press in Turkish history**". "**This is really unprecedented in Turkish history**," he said. "**I'm not against the government - I'm just a journalist who criticises the government. Despite this I'm still subject to physical assault, so it's normal that journalists who define themselves as oppositional to the government would feel anxious**" (ibtimes.co.uk, UK, 30/10).

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/turkey-journalists-condemn-unprecedented-crackdown-media-ahead-elections-1526372>

Summary

Open power struggle in Kosovo

Erich Rathfelder writing in Die Tageszeitung, (DE, 29/10) notes that while a majority of the Kosovo people are still in favour of moving closer to the European Union, the forced privileges for the Serbian minority have caused an uproar and violent intervention from the opposition. However, High Representative Federica Mogherini noted after the signing on Tuesday of the Stabilisation and Association agreement that the association agreement with Kosovo is a great success and an "*important contribution to stability and prosperity in Kosovo and the area as a whole*". Kosovar Foreign Minister Hashim Thaçi, speaking with Svenska Dagbladet's (SE, 29/10) Teresa Kuchler said "*It is the first formal contract between the EU and Kosovo as a sovereign, independent country*". Thaçi wants the EC to ease visa restrictions for Kosovars by the end of the year and says that any delay would not be justifiable because the necessary criteria have already been fulfilled."

- Die Tageszeitung, DE, 29/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151029/mi/item_271872307.pdf
- Svenska Dagbladet, SE, 29/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151029/mi/item_271894330.pdf

Political unrest in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues.

Political clashes continue in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, making it impossible for the so called Przino agreement for the solution of the political crisis to be finalized. The international community has demanded political parties avoid strong debate and continue with the negotiations for the implementation of the political agreement which was achieved on June 2. Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski declared that he backs a quick implementation of the Przino agreement. Andrej Zernovski of the united Macedonian opposition, notes that Gruevski refuses to accept the advice of the international community (balkaneu.com, GR, 29/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 29/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/political-clashes-skopje-agreement-remains-suspended/>

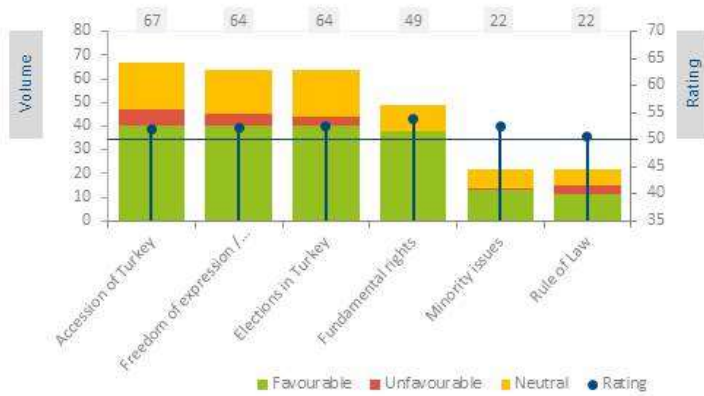
Turkey and Europe

Reflex weekly (DE, 29/10) publishes a commentary by Jefim Fištejn in which he focuses on the policy of German Chancellor Angela Merkel towards Turkey. Mr Fištejn notes that Ms Merkel came into power with a promise not to let Turkey join the EU. While none of the criticised factors have improved in Turkey and the political freedom in the country has been restricted, Ms Merkel is now promising to speed up EU integration for the country. Turkey will be the one to dictate conditions to the EU, Mr Fištejn argues, claiming that refugees streaming through Turkey are a hook opening the European treasury and finally might be the reason for Turkey's EU membership. Meanwhile, within Turkey, the Times (UK, 29/10) reports that the Turkish President is fuelling ethnic tensions to scare voters into giving him more power, a tactic that is working, if the latest polls are anything to go by.

- Reflex weekly, DE, 29/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151029/mi/item_271880568.pdf
- Times, UK, 29/10, <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4599003.ece>

Charts

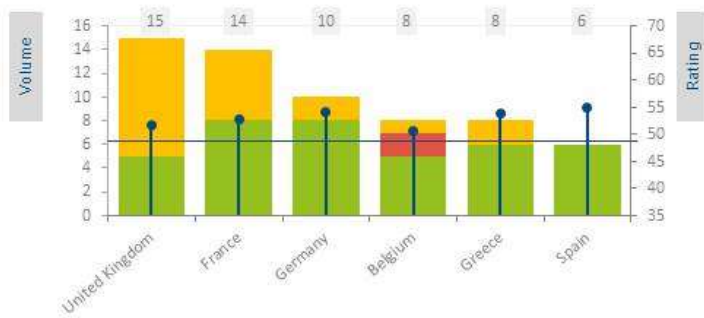
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Rating	51.9
Favourable %	53.8%
Unfavourable %	9%
Neutral %	37.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	56
Fethullah Gulen - US based Turkish opposition leader	39
Federica Mogherini - HR Foreign Affairs	20
Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC	15
Catherine Ray - EC Spokesperson	12
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	5

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