



Key Quotes

The EU enlargement commissioner urged Kosovo's lawmakers to allow parliament to function following protests in which opposition politicians have released teargas in the chamber to demand the cancellation of an EU-brokered agreement with Serbia. **"If there are no decisions, as the parliament is not able to take decisions, this might have an impact not only in the situation in Kosovo itself but also in other issues that are related to the EU because in some areas we need decisions by the parliament,"** Hahn said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 6/11).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/11/06/uk-kosovo-eu-idUKKCN0SV1PJ20151106>

Kosovo, Serbia row over medieval heritage before UNESCO vote. **"In Serbia, Kosovo's bid for UNESCO membership has been misrepresented as an attempt to appropriate Serbian cultural heritage located in Kosovo,"** Bekim Collaku, Kosovo's minister for European integration, told AFP. **"This has no basis in reality, and has lowered the level of the debate and tainted it with nationalism"** (france24.com, FR, 8/11).

<http://www.france24.com/en/20151108-kosovo-serbia-row-over-medieval-heritage-before-unesco-vote>

Summary

We should heed Merkel's warning of a Balkans war

Talk of armed conflict is overstated, but the migrant crisis is testing Europe's borderlands and values. Is Europe's old flashpoint, the Balkans, rearing its head once again? If borders close in Germany and elsewhere huge numbers of people will end up camped in these countries and a bad situation risks becoming very volatile indeed. Times have changed; peace accords, democratisation, political reform and Euro-Atlantic integration have transformed the region since the Balkan wars ended 16 years ago. There is no doubt government relations have frayed in the Balkans. It started when Hungary walled off its border with Serbia, leading refugees to find other routes further west. Croatia then Slovenia became overwhelmed. Talk of armed conflict now is clearly an exaggeration. But going back to the deployment of military hardware and troops - this time to control Europe's external borders - is the kind of nightmare Merkel may be warning about. There is a return to hard core security and territorial obsessions that had become politically incorrect (The Guardian, UK, 5/11).

- The Guardian, UK, 5/11, [link not available]

Agreement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The country's four main political parties on Friday reached consensus on power sharing in the period until the snap elections now confirmed for April 24 of next year. At the meeting that started Thursday and ran into the small hours of Friday, leaders also agreed that Oliver Spasovski, from the largest opposition party SDSM, is to take over the Interior Ministry, while Frosina Remenski, Deputy Chair of SDSM, is to be the new Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Politicians also agreed on legislation that would protect media outlets leaking out wiretapped recordings. The EU Commission is expected to unveil on November 10 its report on membership candidates and aspiring countries' progress in meeting accession criteria (Novinite.com, BG, 6/11)

- Novinite.com, BG, 6/11, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/171688/Macedonia+to+Hold+Early+Election+on+April+24+after+Parties+Reach+Deal>

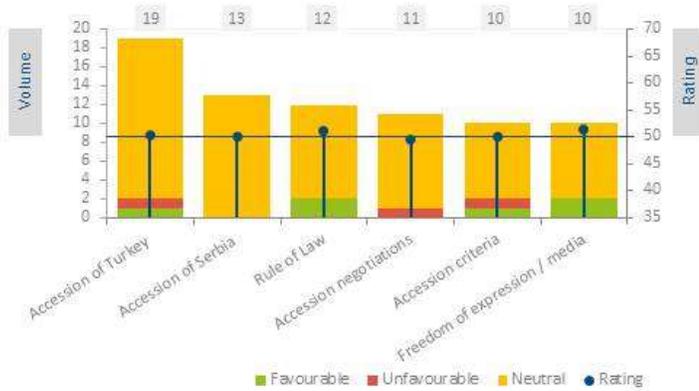
Russian support for Serbia

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has criticized attempts to politicize the activities of the UN' cultural agency, UNESCO. Lavrov was speaking to journalists on November 6 ahead of his address at UNESCO's General Conference in Paris. **"It is important to avoid the politicization of UNESCO's activities the way we are witnessing now through attempts to accept Kosovo into the ranks of this organization"** he said. UNESCO's executive board voted last month to recommend Kosovo as a full member state, despite fierce opposition from Serbia, which doesn't recognize its former province's independence. Kosovo's membership bid will be put to a final vote at the UNESCO's General Conference on November 9 (rferl.org, CZ, 6/11).

- rferl.org, CZ, 6/11, <http://www.rferl.org/content/kosovo-unesco-russia-slams-politicization/27348865.html>

Charts

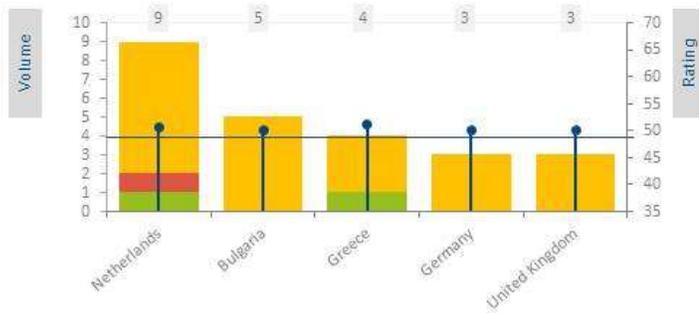
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Mark Rutte PM The Netherlands	7
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	5
Denis Zvizdic - PM Bosnia	4

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