



Key Quotes

Kosovo's constitutional court on Tuesday suspended the implementation of a key EU-backed agreement with Serbia, after weeks of opposition protests against the deal. Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said the court's decision was a **"huge blow to the dialogue in Brussels that is becoming senseless"**. The move is an **"unprecedented case of evading the agreements reached in Brussels and a huge threat to regional stability"**, he added (eubusiness.com, UK, 11/11).

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/kosovo-serbia.1543/>

Summary

Report on Turkey

The European Commission has accused Turkey of significant failings on human rights and democracy. A delayed annual report on Turkish prospects for EU membership says there have been serious setbacks in the past two years on freedom of expression. It also identifies significant shortcomings in the judiciary and new laws that run against EU standards. The report's publication comes at a time when the EU needs Turkey's help in trying to control the refugee crisis. It follows parliamentary elections in which President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) regained the majority it lost in June. The report itself was delayed because sensitive negotiations on the refugee crisis were taking place with leading Turkish officials including the president shortly before the 1 November vote (BBC, UK, 10/11). Opposition parties in Cyprus blamed the government for the report's content and noted that it fully decriminalizes Turkey on the Cyprus problem (Simerini, CY, 10/11).

- BBC, UK, 10/11, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34774624>
- Simerini, CY, 10/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151110/mi/item_273737182.pdf

Reports on Serbia and Kosovo

Major steps were taken in the accession negotiations with Serbia. The analytical examination of the acquis (screening) was completed in March 2015. Discussions on the screening reports on the negotiating chapters are well advanced in the Council. Serbia completed comprehensive action plans required for the opening of rule of law chapters 23 and 24 and has reached key agreements with Kosovo as part of the normalisation process, dealt with under chapter 35. The Commission concluded that Serbia continued to make progress as regards the political and economic criteria. (New Europe, BE, 10/11). Kosovo was praised for its commitment for the normalization of relations with Serbia. However, the report points out the lack of dialogue and political culture between the main political parties in the country (balkaneu.com, GR, 10/11).

- New Europe, BE, 10/11, <http://neurope.eu/wires/key-findings-of-the-2015-report-on-serbia/>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 10/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovos-progress-report-criticism-praising/>

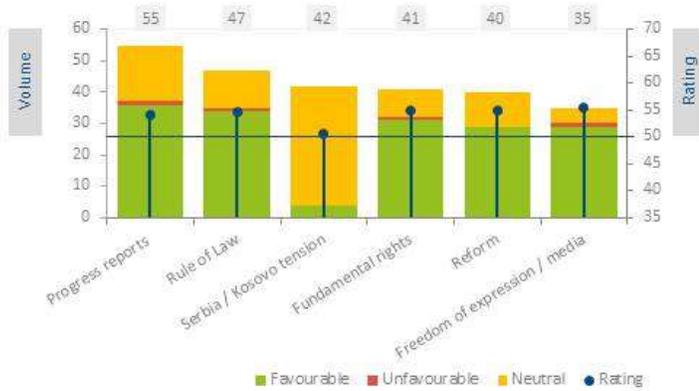
Other reports

The European Commission is prepared to extend its recommendation to open accession negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. *"This shall, however, be conditional on the continued implementation of the June/July political agreement and substantial progress in the implementation of the urgent reform priorities. This issue shall be addressed again after the elections"* (focus-news.net, BG, 10/11). The European Commission also said that Albania made steady progress as regards the political criteria, by continuing to implement and consolidate reforms in the rule of law area (balkaneu.com, GR, 10/11). It said that Montenegro continued to make progress as regards the political and economic criteria and has improved its ability to take on the obligations of EU membership (balkaneu.com, GR, 10/11).

- focus-news.net, BG, 10/11, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/11/10/388989/ec-ready-to-extend-recommendation-to-open-accession-talks-macedonia.html>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 10/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/key-findings-2015-report-albania/>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 10/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/key-findings-2015-report-montenegro/>

Charts

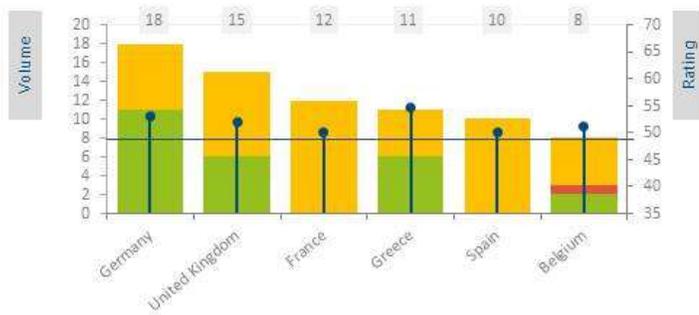
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	26
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	26
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	24
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	22
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	10
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	7

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