



Key Quotes

Italy's Renzi wants Balkan states' EU accession expedited. **"The union has been expanded to the east. But it would be a tragic and a historic mistake to leave out the Balkan countries,"** he said. **"The admission of Albania, Montenegro and Serbia into the Union must have priority,"** Renzi added (yahoo!, UK, 11/11).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/italys-renzi-wants-balkan-states-eu-accession-expedited-213458421.html#WKbNofl>

Summary

EU enlargement process overshadowed by other more pressing issues

It is clear from the EC enlargement package and progress report that enlargement is no longer one of EU's priorities, as the package was adjusted in such manner as to make it clear that there will be no further enlargement in this Commission's term. The EC found itself this year needing to find a balance between the expectations of candidate countries, which want to believe in the future of the enlargement process and EU member states, whose worry is that further enlargement of the EU is problematic when it can hardly deal with its biggest challenges. As candidate countries know that their accession could be a decade away, they are not in a hurry to carry out painful reforms, so the EC progress report does not have the same impact as it used to, when Croatia was still negotiating its membership (Jutarnji list, HR, 11/11).

- Jutarnji list, HR, 11/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151111/mi/item_273897979.pdf

Mistake to release progress report after Turkish elections

Reinhard Baumgarten on NDR, (DE, 11/11) critically commented that the European Commission's progress report on Turkey should have been published as soon as it was ready, not after the elections in Turkey. The report would not have influenced the election outcome, he believes, noting that the report only confirms what everybody in Turkey already knows. The late release of the report has, however, damaged the credibility of the European Commission. The consideration was inappropriate and wrong, Mr Baumgarten suggests. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan now knows that he can do whatever he wants. However, he says, accession negotiations should not stop. Meanwhile Le Figaro (FR, 11/11) writes that The reception that European leaders will receive at the G20 summit in Antalya could be icy given the political indictment of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his regime for his recent attacks on justice, press freedoms and the Kurdish minority. Ankara immediately denounced Brussels' progress report as *"unfair and even disproportionate political criticism."*

- NDR, DE, 11/11, <http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151110/mi/6000-681750-001.mp3>
- Le Figaro, FR, 11/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151111/mi/item_273881699.pdf

Poor Kosovo

José Ignacio Torreblanca writes in El País (ES, 11/11) that Kosovo represents a massive triple failure for the international community, accusing it of having preferred to engage in geopolitical and sovereignty games instead of focusing on what was paramount to the people of Kosovo – providing them with the prospect of a better future. A future that was not provided by the Kosovar elites, who used the independence to establish a governance structure based on clans, corruption and mafias and squandering billions of aid from the international community.

- El País, ES, 11/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151111/mi/item_273902593.pdf

Charts

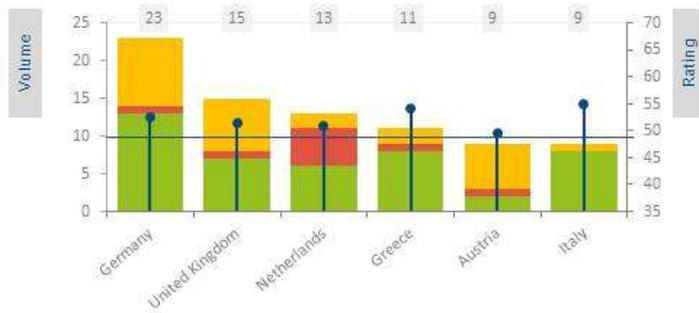
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	62
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	42
Jean-Claude Juncker - President EC	13
Markus Ferber - MEP	11
Knut Fleckenstein - MEP	10
Atifete Jahjaga - Kosovo President	9
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	9

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