



Key Quotes

“European unification is not only about turning an idea into reality. It offers tangible political, economic and security benefits based on the solidarity and cohesion of the Union’s members,” stress chiefs of diplomacy of Poland Grzegorz Schetyna, of the Czech Republic Lubomír Zaorálek, of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák, and of Hungary Péter Szijjártó. In a joint article, the foreign ministers express their support for European aspirations of the countries in the region. **“We offer you our helping hand and our experience on the road that is still ahead of you,”** write the ministers (msz.gov.pl, PL, 12/11).

http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/news/joint_article_by_visegrad_group_foreign_ministers;jsessionid=C2821D6E0B67A84046C2E082C60B9F14.cmsap5p

Summary

Rethink on Turkey necessary

Expert calls for a rethink among European policymakers in regard to Turkey saying that only a far-reaching agreement can bring the influx of refugees under control. In an interview with the Salzburger Nachrichten (AT, 12/11) Austrian expert and director of the European Stability Initiative (ESI) Gerald Knaus calls for a rethink among European policymakers. Within the EU, the illusion that a generous offer was made to Turkey is still predominant. The EU is prepared to accelerate visa facilitation for Turkish citizens but even if the European Commission were to now encourage a change in the relevant EU directive and suspend the visa requirements for Turks, putting the measure into practice would certainly take at least six months. On the Turkish side, such signals intensify the feeling that the EU merely wants to talk the country into becoming a buffer zone for refugees. De Tijd (NL, 12/11) reports that on Wednesday, Frans Timmermans travelled to Ankara. Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk want to reach an agreement on the approach to the refugee crisis before the end of this year, but they realise this will come at a price. The fact the European Commission wants to go easy on Turkey was shown by the fact it held back a critical report on Turkey until after the Turkish elections.

- Salzburger Nachrichten, AT, 12/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151112/mi/item_274043934.pdf
- De Tijd, NL, 12/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151112/mi/item_274063142.pdf

Serbian municipalities in Kosovo

Sources say there is a need to renegotiate the agreement on the establishment of the Association Serbian municipalities. Concern has also been expressed by the European Union, which has urged both parties to continue to implement the agreements. *“The EU calls on Pristina and Belgrade to implement the agreements reached on 25 August in Brussels, in particular as regards the establishment of the Association of Serb majority municipalities”* said EU spokesperson Maja Kocijancic (Agenzianova.com, IT, 12/11). Serbia’s lobbying and the use of a hostile language against Kosovo’s accession to UNESCO, has shown that the Brussels’ agreements, signed by both countries, are not yielding the expected results. For instance, the April 19th 2013 agreement requires Serbia not to prevent Kosovo’s accession to international organizations (Balkaneu.com, GR, 12/11).

- Agenzianova.com, IT, 12/11, <http://www.agenzianova.com/a/564462aa3a0900.35744404/1245622/2015-11-12/kosovo-fonti-stampa-necessario-rinegoziare-accordo-su-istituzione-associazione-comuni-serbi-3>
- Balkaneu.com, GR, 12/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/analysts-kosovo-reflect-dialogue-serbia/>

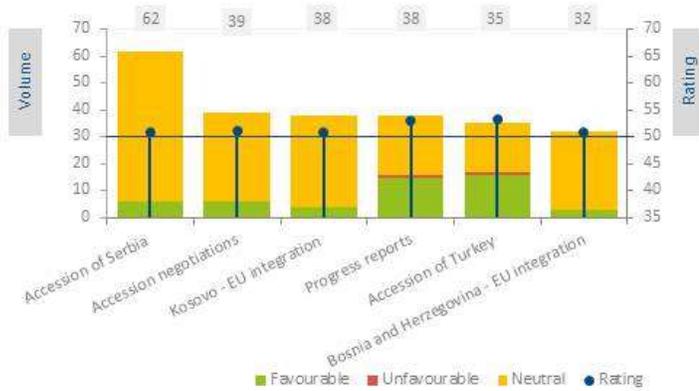
Call for southern expansion

Matteo Renzi advocates a South-East expansion of the European Union as a way to handle the refugee crisis and emphasises the importance of patience, realism and the humane treatment of refugees. He criticises the actions of a number of Eastern European states, stating that Western Europe paid a political price for EU expansion to the East (Die Welt, DE, 12/11).

- Die Welt, DE, 12/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20151112/mi/item_274026274.pdf

Charts

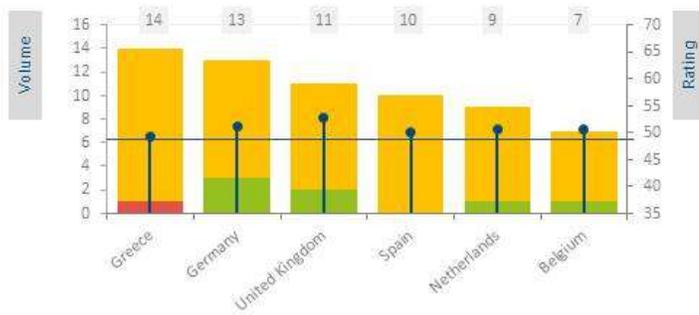
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Volume	90 items
Rating	51.4
Favourable %	18.9%
Unfavourable %	1.1%
Neutral %	80%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Matteo Renzi - Italian Prime Minister	19
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	14
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	11
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	11
Atifete Jahjaga - Kosovo President	6
Johannes Singhammer . German politician	6

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