



Key Quotes

Christoph Hasselbach (*dw.de*) writes that *"the EU may not need states like Serbia, Albania or Macedonia for economic reasons; from an economic point of view they would probably be more of a burden than an asset for some time to come. But from a political point of view, the EU must demonstrate concern for lasting peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia. The Serbia-Kosovo problem won't be solved without the prospect of EU accession. Although the accession process could take a while, people in these countries must be given concrete hope that their efforts are not in vain"* (*dw.de*, DE, 2/7).

<http://www.dw.de/opinion-disillusionment-on-croatias-first-eu-anniversary/a-17753326>

Summary

Balkan summit

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is organising a summit at the end of August on the political and economic situation in Southeast European countries and their European prospects. Deutsche Welle said on Wednesday that Merkel wanted to encourage the "forgotten" of the European Union enlargement process. The prime ministers of four member states have been invited (Croatia, Slovenia, Austria and France), the PMs of candidates and potential candidates, the president of the European Commission, the EU high representative for the foreign and security policy, and the EU enlargement commissioner. The aim of the conference is to confirm the clear European prospect of the Southeast European countries and help them deal with economic problems to ensure the region's stability, a source said, adding that the four member states invited and Germany were especially interested in the economic and political situation in the region. Merkel said early in June that the Western Balkan countries had a clear prospect of EU accession, although this path would be long, and that Germany was a strong advocate of the region (*dalje.com*, HR, 2/7)

- *dalje.com*, HR, 2/7, <http://dalje.com/en-croatia/croatian-pm-to-attend-western-balkans-conference-in-berlin-in-august/513714>

Hungarian support for Serbia

The governments of Hungary and Serbia held a joint session for the first time in Belgrade. Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán said that those who oppose the construction of the South Stream gas pipeline should propose other solutions. Mr Orbán added that Hungarian gas imports must not depend on the Ukrainian situation. He and Serbian PM Aleksandar Vučić agreed that the accession of Serbia is in the interest of Europe. Mr Orbán said that Hungary is committed to the Serbian EU membership and that Hungary is ready to give any support if needed (*Magyar-Nemzet*, HU, 2/7).

- *Magyar-Nemzet*, HU, 2/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20140702/mi/item_205105373.pdf

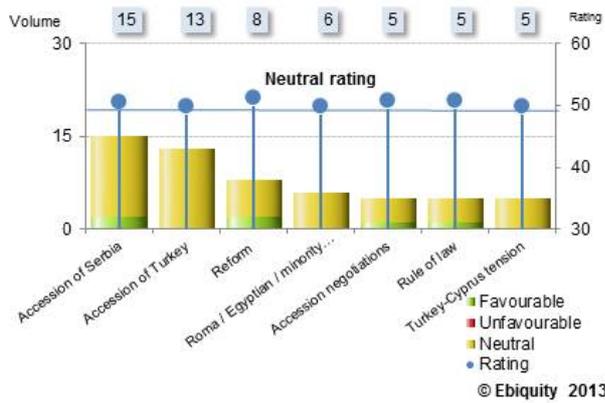
Political turmoil in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Opposition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led by LSDM (Macedonian Democratic Socialist League) has prepared its political strategy outside parliament. The plan of the opposition is to form parallel formal institutions, namely shadow government and shadow parliament. The opposition is determined not to go back to parliament and not to accept parliamentary mandates won in the April 27 elections. Leader of LSDM, Zoran Zaev, said that the opposition is resolved in this decision and resolved in not recognizing the April 27 elections, which according to it, were rigged. The opposition has not heeded the appeals launched so far by the international community, especially by the European Union, to return to parliament and start a political debate inside the institutions of the country (*balkaneu.com*, GR, 2/7).

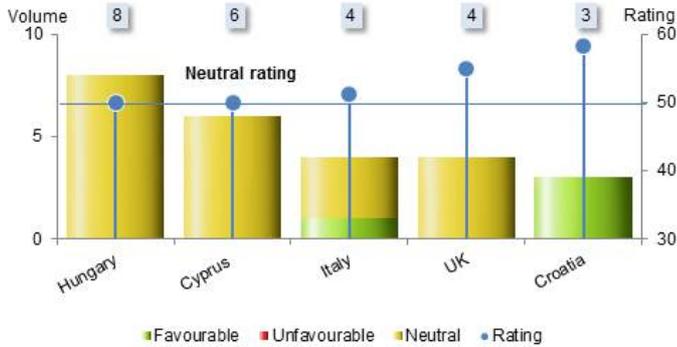
- *balkaneu.com*, GR, 2/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/opposition-fyrom-shadow-government-parliament/>

Charts

ELARG: Leading Daily Issues
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Volume	34 items
Rating	50.7
Favourable %	14.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	85.3%

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ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Viktor Orban (Prime Minister, Hungary)	11
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	10
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister, Turkey)	6
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (EU Affairs Minister, Turkey)	5
Tomislav Nikolić (President, Serbia)	4

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