



Key Quotes

The European Union says it won't block the construction of the South Stream pipeline in Serbia, but says the pipeline can only start shipping Russian natural gas into EU countries when it complies with EU laws. Peter Stano, a spokesman for Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle, said South Stream could hurt Serbia's bid to join the EU because "**all issues related to energy**" must be in line with EU standards (rferl.org, CZ, 17/9).

<http://www.rferl.org/content/eu-south-stream-gazprom-serbia-bulgaria/26590496.html>

Summary

Kosovo's struggles

Newly independent states typically struggle to make their way in the world, even in the most favourable conditions. Kosovo's declaration of independence in 2008 was enthusiastically backed by the US, Britain, and many other governments. But six years on, more than one third of UN member states, including five EU countries and four NATO members, continue to withhold recognition. Kosovo has yet to achieve the political stability, physical security and economic prosperity its leaders promised when they broke with Serbia (theguardian.com, UK, 17/9).

- theguardian.com, UK, 17/9, <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/sep/17/scotland-struggle-newly-independent-state>

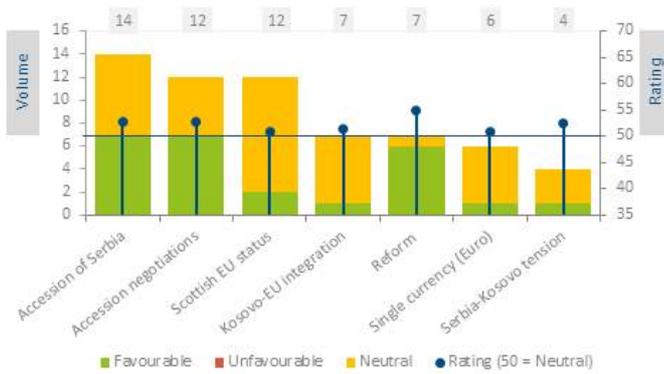
Turning toward Russia?

Albania, Montenegro and other southeast European countries back EU's sanctions against Russia, while Serbia does not. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on the other hand, has not taken a clear position on this matter. Foreign Minister, Nikola Popovski, declared during a meeting with his Serb counterpart, Ivica Dačić, that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was reserving its position. Expert on international issues, Zdravko Savevski, said "*This position aims at preparing public opinion for the reorientation of the government as far as the EU and Russia are concerned, meaning that there's no sufficient engagement for integration into the EU and that other solutions may be found by reorienting the country toward Russia and China*" (balkaneu.com, GR, 17/9).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 17/9, <http://www.balkaneu.com/skopje-reserved-eu-sanctions-russia/>

Charts

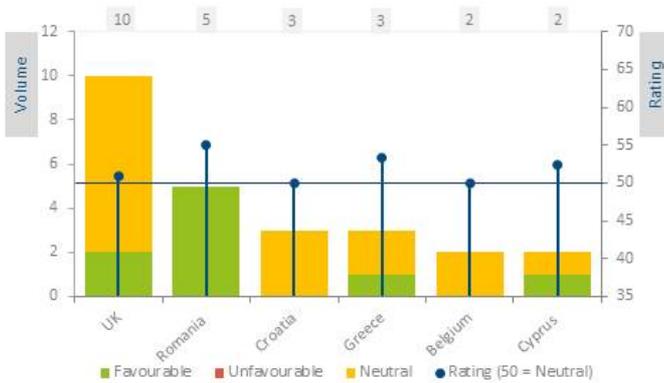
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Alex Salmond (First Minister, Scotland)	9
Guenter Verheugen (Former European Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, EC)	6
Aleksandar Vučić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	5
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	3
Ivica Dačić (Foreign Minister, Serbia)	2
Jean-Claude Juncker (President-elect, EC)	2

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