



Key Quotes

Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić: "**Serbia will gradually harmonize its foreign policy with the EU**". Ivica Dačić said on Sunday that now it is not reasonable to expect Belgrade to align its foreign policy with Brussels, but Serbia until the end of EU membership negotiations will certainly do so because it is the obligation of the European integration process (slobodnadalmacija.hr, HR, 21/9).

<http://www.slobodnadalmacija.hr/Novosti/Svijet/tabid/67/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/258087/Default.aspx>

Summary

Turkey renews its call to join the EU

Turkey has revived its call for EU membership, saying that crises in the Middle East made closer links with Europe essential. The country has struggled to fall into line with EU norms on issues including human rights. France and Germany remain concerned while Britain and Sweden support its wish to join (Times, UK, 19/9). Turkey has announced a reformed plan to gain membership into the EU, which includes an increase in the dialogue between the EU and Turkey and significant social, economic and political reforms. Turkish minister for EU Affairs Volkan Bozkir announced today Turkey's new strategy to gain entrance into the European Union, which is titled "*Determination in the Political Reform Process, Continuity in Socio-Economic Transformation, Effectiveness in Communication.*" (acq5.com, UK, 19/9).

- Times, UK, 19/9, [Link not available]
- acq5.com, UK, 19/9, <http://www.acq5.com/turkey-announces-new-strategy-to-join-eu/>

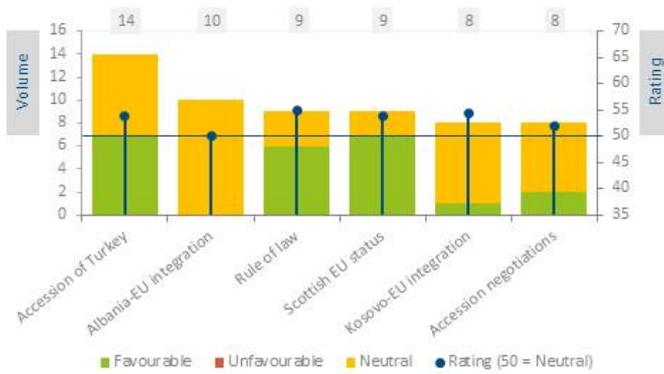
Enlargement fatigue

The recent international conference on the Balkans, convened by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, has, as expected, gone largely unnoticed. The Berlin conference was aimed at sending a message of support for the Balkan countries' European ambitions, meant to bolster the promises that the European Union made to the Balkans in more self-confident days. However, these promises now seem uncertain, against the backdrop of increasing enlargement fatigue, and the harsh rhetoric of political forces which, in the current populist mood, associate enlargement with greater migration and insecurity. Negative developments in the Balkans could reverse gains in the region, increase instability in other countries on the EU's immediate borders, and further weaken Europe's credibility and cohesion. The situation both in Bosnia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is deteriorating, with both countries facing challenges from atrophied power-sharing frameworks that elites use to block the path towards the EU (balkans.com, UK, 19/9).

- balkans.com, UK, 19/9, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=197103>

Charts

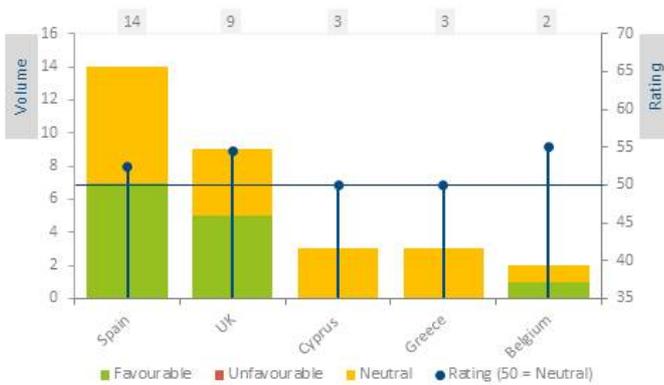
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume, favourability & rating

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Jean-Claude Juncker (President-elect, EC)	9
José Manuel Barroso (President, EC)	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (President, Turkey)	5
Volkan Bozkır (EU Affairs Minister, Turkey)	4
Štefan Füle (Enlargement Commissioner, EC)	2

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