



Key Quotes

The European Commission will criticise Turkey for failing to safeguard the independence of its judges and says it wants to have more discussion on rights as part of Ankara's bid to join the European Union, according a senior EU official. The Commission, the EU executive, will make the calls when it publishes its annual report to assess how far Turkey and other countries aspiring to EU membership have progressed in bringing their rules into line with EU standards and values. **"What has happened in Turkey has raised serious doubts about the independence of the judiciary,"** said the official, who declined to be named because the report is not yet public. **"There are serious doubts about fundamental freedoms,"** the official added, referring to social media and the Internet (uk.reuters.com, UK, 7/10). <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/10/07/uk-eu-turkey-idUKKCN0HW1H820141007>

Summary

Albanian visit to Serbia

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama will make a landmark visit to Serbia later this month, the first of its kind in 68 years, the foreign ministry said on Monday. The October 22 visit was made possible by improving relations between Serbia and its former province of Kosovo, populated mostly by ethnic Albanians, which unilaterally declared independence in 2008 despite opposition from Belgrade. The April 2013 deal between Belgrade and Pristina on normalisation of ties was brokered by the European Union that the former foes, as well as Albania, hope to join. Kosovo will be on the agenda of talks between Rama and his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vučić, Albania's foreign ministry spokesman Glevi Dervishi said (Balkans.com, UK, 7/10).

- Balkans.com, UK, 7/10, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=197526>

EU warns Serbia: Stop South Stream. The agreement with Russia has violated EU laws

The European Commission is to tell Serbia its accession prospects will suffer if it builds South Stream, a Russian gas pipeline. It says in its annual enlargement report that *"the intergovernmental agreement signed between Serbia and Russia to build the South Stream pipeline is not compatible with the acquis"* adding *"Serbia should not commence work on constructing South Stream until this agreement is aligned with the acquis"* (Jutarnji List, HR, 7/10). It makes the same point in a strategy paper which will shape accession talks over the next 12 months. The EU's incoming foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini said in her European Parliament hearing on Monday the political conditions are not right for the project even if it complied with EU law. An EU official said that Brussels is unhappy Serbia did not join EU sanctions on Russia in what looks like a South Stream concession. *"We also have issues on Serbia's non-alignment with EU foreign policy statements and actions"* the contact said (europa-nu.nl, NL, 7/10).

- Jutarnji List, HR, 7/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141007/mi/item_217148830.pdf
- europa-nu.nl, NL, 7/10, http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vjntc9jrlwzv/nieuws/eu_puts_pressure_on_serbia_to_stop_south?ctx=vg9piqcfmzzz&s0e=vhdubxdwqzrw

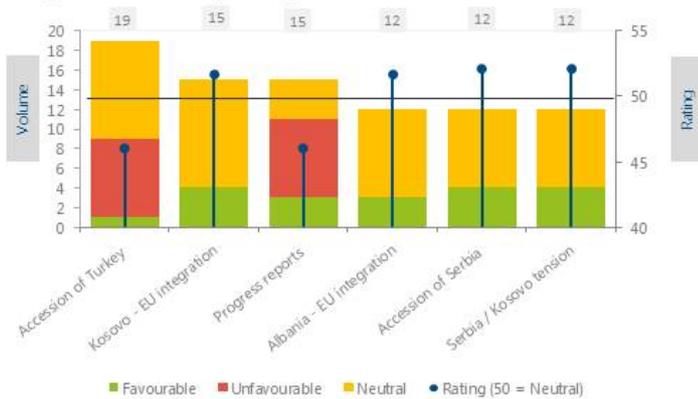
Translation of vital documents

Vice President of the German Bundestag Johannes Singhammer has continued his campaign against the European Commission for not releasing important documents such as the country progress reports in all language versions simultaneously, as he wrote in a letter to Secretary General Catherine Day concerning the European Union's progress report on Turkey. He criticised the planned release of the German translation in mid-November as *"much too late"* and demanded that it be released this week alongside the English version. Mr Singhammer claimed that many issues are too complex to be debate in the Bundestag on the basis of English documents, and that this has led to decisions being made without German input in the past (Suddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 7/10).

- Suddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 7/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141007/mi/item_217114500.pdf

Charts

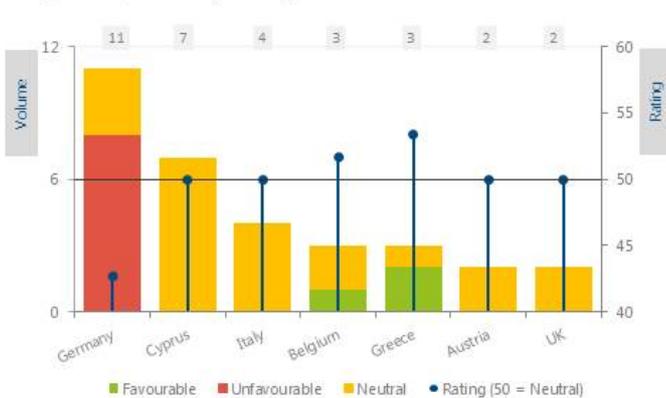
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Neutral %	62.8%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama - Albania PM	10
Johannes Singhammer - German Politician	8
Catherine Day - Secretary General, EC	8
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	6
Štefan Füle - Enlargement	2
Jean-Claude Juncker - President-elect EC	3
Konstantinos Koutras - Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Greece	3

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