



Key Quotes

Bosnian nationalists pull ahead as election results come in. Bakir Izetbegovic, of the main Muslim SDA party, has 33% of votes, with 77% counted, eight points ahead of his nearest rival. Zeljka Cvijanovic is ahead in the race for the Serb seat with Dragan Covic leading for Croat seat. Mr Izetbegovic said he hoped voters would choose candidates capable of **"overcoming the current deadlock that blocks the country's integration into EU and Nato"**. The EU said on Friday said that a new government would be expected to **"bring much needed reconciliation in society and politics... and close the gap with the rest of the region and ensure progress towards the EU"** (BBC Online, UK, 13/10).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29586853>

Summary

Ethnic divisions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Ohrid Agreement, which put an end to the 2001 conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and brought peace between the two largest communities in the country, Macedonians and Albanians, is still not being fully applied and the progress report of the European Commission has once again addressed criticism in relation to this issue. Brussels has demanded the agreement be implemented in full (balkaneu.com, GR, 10/10). In addition the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, commented that the Commission would like and expect the Government and opposition in Macedonia to be responsible and hold debates at Parliament. They have to undertake to establish conditions for functioning of dialogue. Despite this Füle said that *"In view of the increasing progress the country has made, the Commission believes the political criteria have been met enough and therefore the recommendation over starting negotiations is preserved"* (focus-news.net, BG, 10/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 10/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/progress-report-addresses-issue-ohrid-agreement/>
- focus-news.net, BG, 10/10, <http://focus-fen.net/news/2014/10/10/351014/macedonia-received-6th-ec-recommendation-to-start-accession-talks-work-on-remarks-to-be-done-in-skopje-roundup.html>

Bosnia's journey towards EU entry is faltering

The latest EU enlargement report published on October 8 criticised the country's *"very limited"* progress and said there was an urgent need for socio-economic reform. *"Bosnia and Herzegovina has not overcome the standstill in the European integration process while most other countries in the region are moving ahead decisively. This regrettable situation is caused mostly by a lack of collective political will on the side of the leadership"* the report said. The system of two autonomous republics, intended to ensure peace within Bosnia, has the downside of creating conditions for political deadlock that has prevented reforms from being introduced, as well as creating opportunities for corruption. Politicians have used calls for secession as a rallying cry. This has been most extreme in the Republika Srpska where Milorad Dodik is fighting to hold onto the presidency. Recently, Dodik has reached out to Serbia's traditional ally Russia, bypassing Sarajevo to strike a deal with Gazprom to receive gas imports via Serbia through the planned South Stream gas pipeline. Dodik also announced in late September that he had lined up a loan of up to €700m in case the International Monetary Fund freezes funds for Bosnia (bne.eu, UK, 10/10).

- bne.eu, UK, 10/10, <http://www.bne.eu/content/story/elections-unlikely-revive-bosnias-troubled-economy>

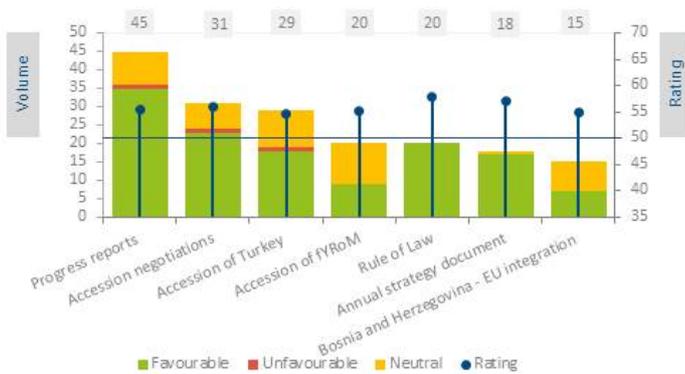
Austrian praise for the Balkans

Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said that he was glad that the Western Balkan states had made progress, but added in a statement that much hard work remained to be done. He also demanded increased efforts for the region from the EU and its member states (Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 10/10).

- Wirtschaftsblatt, AT, 10/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141010/mi/item_217594082.pdf

Charts

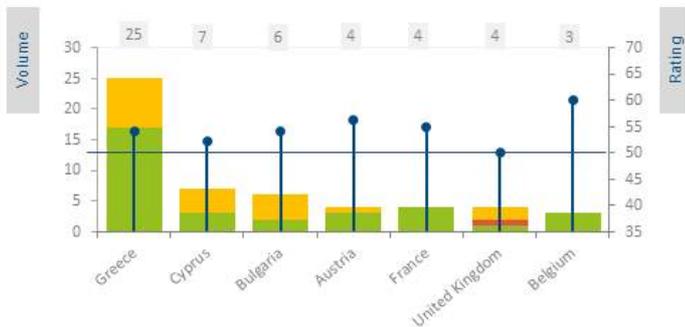
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
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ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	58 items
Rating	54.5
Favourable %	63.8%
Unfavourable %	1.7%
Neutral %	34.5%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Štefan Füle - Enlargement	8
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	5
Nikola Gruevski – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia PM	5
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	5
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	5
Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	3

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