

Key Quotes

The EU urges Serbia to choose sides. The EU expects Serbia to confirm its "pro-European" position during the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin. **"Serbia is a candidate (that) is currently negotiating with the EU and we expect that pro-EU direction will also be confirmed during this visit,"** said a spokeswoman for EU foreign affairs Maja Kojicancic (lefigaro.fr, FR, 14/10).

<http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/2014/10/14/97001-20141014FILWWW00234-l-ue-presse-la-serbie-de-choisir-son-camp.php>

Summary

Serbian balancing act

President Vladimir Putin visits Serbia Thursday in a bid to seal Russia's influence over the EU aspirant, which is walking a tightrope between Brussels and its traditional ally Moscow. When we decided to negotiate with the European Union we did not talk about sanctions against Russia, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić said in a recent interview. That kind of support is rare in Europe (newsbomb.gr, GR, 14/10). Russia has backed Belgrade in the past and has opposed Kosovo's independence. Experts say it is keen to ensure that Serbia's accession to the EU does not go against Moscow's interests (eubusiness.com, UK, 14/10). The Liberation Day Parade, will be held four days early to accommodate the guest of honour, Russian President Vladimir Putin, en route to a summit in Milan. It is a gesture with huge symbolism in a Cold-War-style East-West split over Ukraine that has forced Serbia, politically indebted to Russia but seeing its economic future with the European Union, into a delicate balancing act. The United States is uncomfortable about the idea of Putin and his military chief taking the salute at a parade of 4500 Serbian soldiers while NATO says Russian soldiers are still making war in eastern Ukraine (uk.reuters.com, UK, 14/10).

- newsbomb.gr, GR, 14/10, <http://www.newsbomb.gr/diethnh/story/506711/episkepsi-poytin-sto-veligradi>
- eubusiness.com, UK, 14/10, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/serbia-diplomacy.y7c/>
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 14/10, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/10/14/uk-serbia-russia-eu-idUKKCN0I30CA20141014>

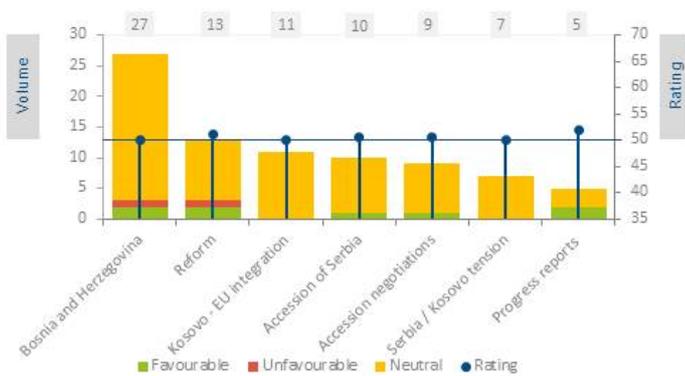
Delays to Energy liberalisation

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia moved a step closer to delaying the planned electricity sector liberalisation on October 13, when legislation was approved by the parliament's energy committee, despite opposition from the EU. The director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Janez Kopač, had warned on October 10 that the move is "a very clear breach of the Energy Community Treaty" which aims to bring prospective EU members into line with EU energy policy. Kopač added, if the draft law is adopted the Energy Community will start infringement procedures against the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the beginning of January 2015 the deadline for market liberalisation (bne.eu, UK, 14/10).

- bne.eu, UK, 14/10, <http://www.bne.eu/content/story/macedonia-ignores-eu-warning-electricity-market-liberalisation>

Charts

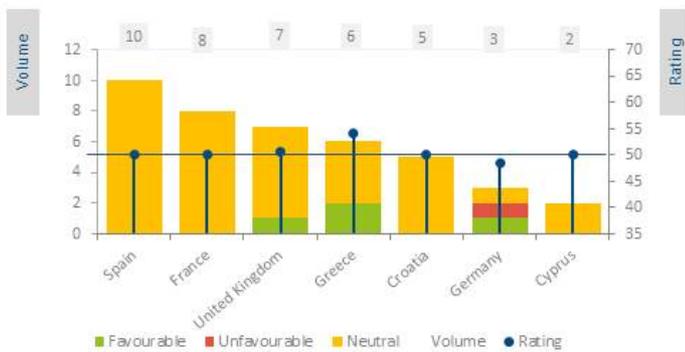
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Rating	50.6
Favourable %	9.3%
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Neutral %	88.4%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Bakir Izetbegović, Presidential candidate BiH	32
Dragan Čović - Presidential candidate BiH	14
Željka Cvijanović - Presidential candidate BiH	14
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	6
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	3
Tonino Picula - MEP	3

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