



## Key Quotes

The EU expressed disappointment over the "**provocation**" that forced the cancellation of a Serbia-Albania football match, and praised Belgrade for its handling of the incident. "**We are disappointed with the disruption of the football match yesterday following an act of provocation,**" European Commission spokeswoman Maja Kojicancic told reporters. "**The Serbian authorities demonstrated professionalism in handling this situation.**" Kojicancic said the EU rejected suggestions by "**some of the Serbian media**" that the 28-nation bloc had played a role in stirring the unrest at the football match. "**Politics should not be driven by stadium provocations and in this context we stress particularly the importance of regional cooperation and the planned visit of Albanian prime minister (Edi) Rama in Serbia in the coming days,**" she said (eubusiness.com, UK, 15/10).  
<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/fbl-serbia-albania.y86>

## Summary

### Putin's Serbian offensive

The Russian President Vladimir Putin is to be the star of the festivities surrounding the celebrations of Belgrade's liberation from German occupation 70 years ago. The poorer Balkan countries are susceptible to Russian PR exercises not only due to historical ties but also over hopes of subsidised gas sales. This is evident in Serbian support for the South Stream gas pipeline for instance. Jelena Milić from the Euro-Atlantic Studies Centre in Belgrade says that Russia is trying to influence the terms on which Serbia is to join the EU (Rzeczpospolita, PO, 15/10). Aktual (HR, 15/10) suggest that Serbia must decide on NATO and the EU or be a puppet of the Kremlin, it suggests that Belgrade will have to decide on whether to follow the democratic West or the aggressive Russia. If conflicts between Moscow and Brussels escalate, Serbia will either commit to entering into Western institutions, or will be increasingly seen as a puppet of the Kremlin and executor.

- Rzeczpospolita, PO, 15/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141015/mi/item\\_218219714.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141015/mi/item_218219714.pdf)
- Aktual, HR, 15/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141015/mi/item\\_218222409.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141015/mi/item_218222409.pdf)

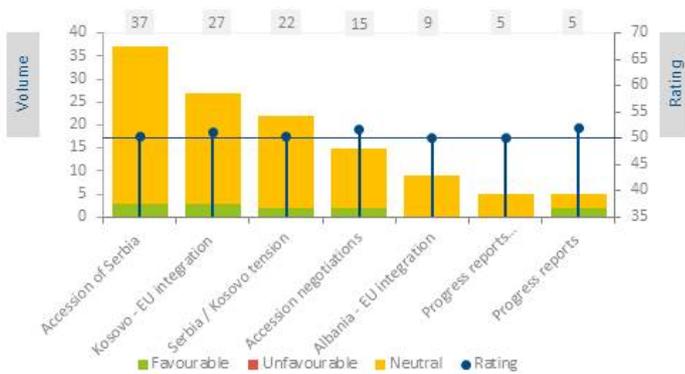
### Füle on Balkan enlargement

In an article by Štefan Füle, he says that a credible enlargement process for the Western Balkans and Turkey is gradually transforming our immediate neighbourhood, and the results are impressive. We all have to gain: for these countries and for us this is the way towards a more secure Europe that is more stable and more prosperous (La Tribune, FR, 15/10).

- La Tribune, FR, 15/10, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141015/mi/item\\_218201945.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141015/mi/item_218201945.pdf)

# Charts

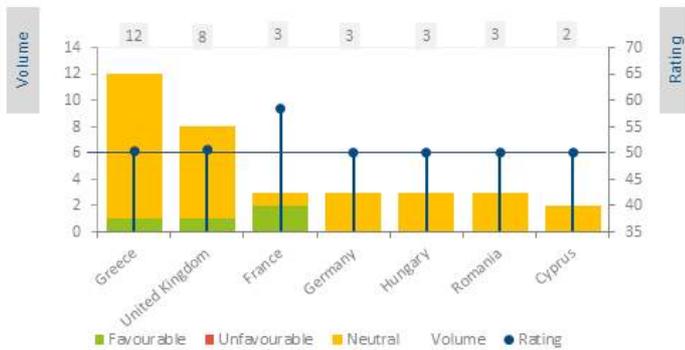
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Highlights**  
by volume, favourability & rating

Volume	44 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	11.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	88.6%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	25
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	19
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	9
Edi Rama - Albania PM	8
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	5
Maja Kocijancic - spokesperson for Catherine Ashton	2
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement	2
Štefan Füle - Enlargement	2

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2014

**Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.**