



Key Quotes

Former European Commission President Romano Prodi said that **"the integration of Albania into the EU must be made before the year 2020"**. Mr. Prodi stressed that the country's entry into the European Union will ensure economic stability and added that **"no one is investing in the future, if the country does not become an EU member"** (kathimerini.gr, GR, 21/10).

<http://www.kathimerini.gr/788935/article/epikairothta/kosmos/romano-pronti-h-enta3h-ths-alvanias-sthn-ee-prepei-na-ginei-prin-apo-to-2020>

Summary

Turkey is one step close to receive the green light regarding the visa liberalisation

This is the result of the Commission's first report on progress by Turkey. The report assesses the situation of the legislation and the administrative capacities and practices of Turkey in the areas addressed by the benchmarks of the visa liberalisation roadmap. The Commission acknowledges Turkey's progress in the border cooperation with the EU Member States and FRONTEX and is encouraging of the initiatives Turkey has taken to reform the anti-terror legislation. Kathimerini (GR, 21/10) comments that Turkey needs to make further steps, stressing that only when the country fulfils all the requirements of the EC will it be able to propose to the European Parliament and the European Council the lifting of the visa obligation for Turkish citizens. However because of the Cyprus problem tovima.gr (GR, 21/10) reports that Nicosia and Athens want to freeze Turkey's accession talks to the EU. The Greek foreign Minister, Evangelos Venizelos, commented that by not recognizing the existence of the Republic of Cyprus, Turkey sets for itself insuperable obstacles in its European course (Parikiaki, UK, 21/10).

- Kathimerini, GR, 21/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141021/mi/item_219025527.pdf
- tovima.gr, GR, 21/10, <http://www.tovima.gr/politics/article/?aid=643146>
- Parikiaki, UK, 21/10, <http://www.parikiaki.com/2014/10/presence-of-turkish-vessel-in-cyprus-eez-a-brutal-violation-of-international-law-greek-fm-says/>

Serbia keeps on skilfully manoeuvring between the EU and Russia

Gazeta Wyborcza (PL, 21/10) reports that the Serbian Republic upholds EU membership as its long-term and strategic objective while at the same time it is profiting from boycotting EU sanctions against Russia. Brussels gently cautioned Belgrade, stating through its spokesperson Maya Kocijancic that all candidate countries should gradually align their policies with the EU. However as an instance, Serbian exports of pork to Russia are booming as it is the only European country not included in Russia's ban.

- Gazeta Wyborcza, PL, 21/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141021/mi/item_219031876.pdf

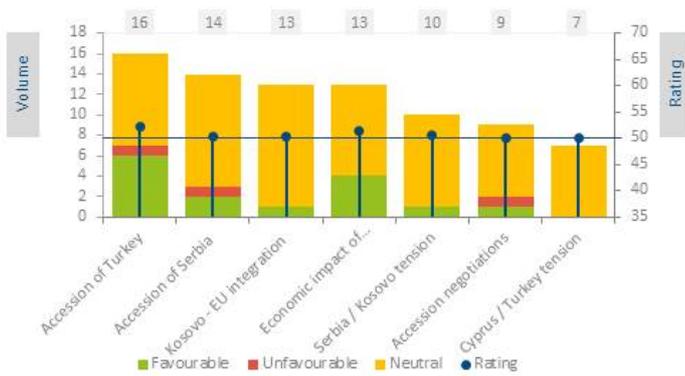
Damage to Albanian businesses in Kosovo

Kosovo Chamber of Commerce has strongly reacted against the damage sustained by several Albanian businesses in Serbia. The Chamber said that it's worried about acts of vandalism and the destruction of Albanian businesses and properties in Serbia. *"We believe that such approach is not in the spirit of normalizing relations between Republic of Kosovo and Serbia and it doesn't support the agreements signed in Brussels"* says a press release. The Kosovo Chamber of Commerce has appealed to domestic and international institutions in Kosovo and Serbia to do their best in order to protect Albanian businesses in Serbia and also comments that such events as have taken place in Serbia, do not help Serbia on its European path or even the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia (balkaneu.com, GR, 21/10).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 21/10, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kcc-albanian-businesses-serbia-protected/>

Charts

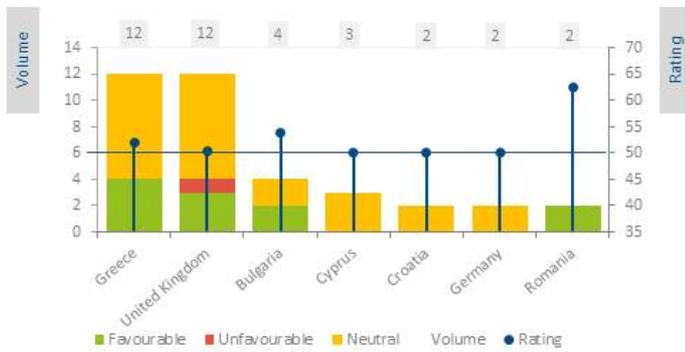
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Favourable %	30%
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
José Manuel Barroso - President EC	4
Evangelos Venizelos - Greek FM	5
Edi Rama - Albania PM	3
Nikos Christodoulides - Cyprus spokesman	3
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	2
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	2
George Papandreou - ex-PM Greece	2

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