



Key Quotes

Kosovo Foreign Minister Hoxhaj makes Belgrade visit. **"This is a very important political move which should be seen as the first historic visit of a Kosovo foreign minister to Serbia,"** Hoxhaj told reporters on Thursday. **"Something that was still unthinkable in 2011 is happening today, showing to which point our relations have improved,"** Hoxhaj added. He urged officials in Belgrade to sign a legally binding agreement on the normalization of ties between the former foes before Serbia could join the European Union. Hoxhaj said that would amount to a **"peace agreement"** between the two countries. **"Wherever I go I embody Kosovo's sovereignty as an independent state,"** Hoxhaj said, referring to his title of foreign minister (dw.de, DE, 23/10). <http://www.dw.de/kosovo-foreign-minister-hoxhaj-makes-belgrade-visit/a-18017493>

Summary

Economic fitness for new candidates

Designated European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, says in an interview with the Kurier (AT, 23/10) that the European Commission will focus on fewer things under European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker than it did under Jose Manuel Barroso, but will deal with these things more intently. He says that it is important for potential accession candidates to be economically fit. Standartnews.com (BG, 23/10) noted that the President-elect told lawmakers that he doesn't want to cheat on people from aspirant countries and give false impressions during his five year mandate *"Let's not give impression to candidate countries that they could become members of the EU during the next five years. There will be no new members during the mandate of this European Commission. It's strictly not doable"* Juncker said. The financialmirror.com (CY, 23/10) observed that the President – elect of the European Commission said that obviously enlargement negotiations will continue with the same energy and commitment that has been seen so far, but is not realistic to think that they could be successfully concluded by 2019.

- Kurier, AT, 23/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141023/mi/item_219329473.pdf
- standartnews.com, BG, 23/10, http://www.standartnews.com/english/read/eu_parliament_approves_juncker_commission_there_will_be_no_enlargement_during_its_term_-5925.html
- financialmirror.com, CY, 23/10, <http://www.financialmirror.com/news-details.php?nid=33372>

Turkey Cyprus tension

The EU asks for de-escalation of tension between Turkey and Cyprus; In spite of the *"no comment"* that the spokesperson of the European Commission expressed over the tension that Turkey is causing, EC Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle intervened with a post on his personal Twitter account. Mr Füle stressed that the time has come for the crisis to de-escalate and to maintain open doors so that all the sides can return to the negotiating table soon for an overall settlement of the Cypriot issue for the benefit of everyone (Kathimerini, GR, 23/10).

- Kathimerini, GR, 23/10, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141023/mi/item_219325616.pdf

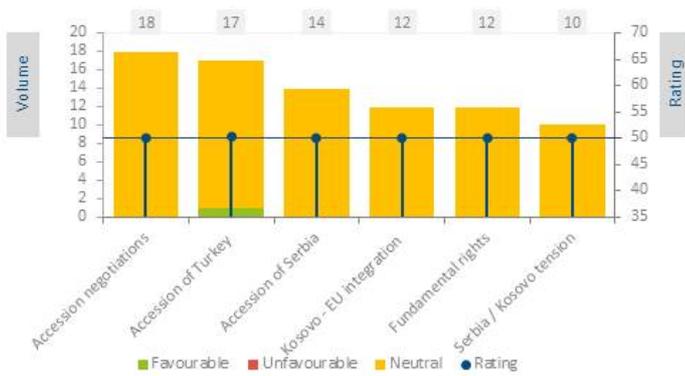
Albanian Serbian relations

Albania's prime minister said Wednesday that his nation and Serbia must try to end decades of hostility toward one another by focusing on major issues such as their mutual desire to join the European Union, not last week's dispute over a football match. Edi Rama had been expected to make a landmark visit to Serbia on Wednesday — the first by an Albanian leader in nearly 70 years — as part of an effort to ease tensions left over from wars fought following the breakup of Yugoslavia. But the trip was postponed until November 10th. In an interview with The Associate Press on Wednesday, Rama, an ardent football fan, said international politics cannot be driven by football games (Balkans.com, UK, 23/10).

- Balkans.com, UK, 23/10, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=198014>

Charts

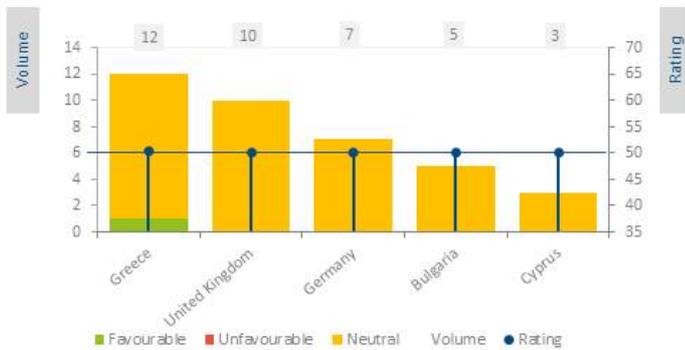
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Neutral %	95.8%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama - Albania PM	6
Jean-Claude Juncker - President-elect EC - QUOTED	6
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement MENTION	6
Elmar Brok - MEP	6
Nikos Christodoulides - Cypriot spokesman	4

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