



Key Quotes

EU enlargement "**is not a burden but a vehicle of peace and prosperity**", Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said on Tuesday, when the EU strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region was launched in Brussels. "**It is crucial for growth and stability**", stressed the diplomacy chief, "**but also has an important political meaning**" as it "**traces the EU route for the western Balkans**" (ansamed.info, IT, 18/11).

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/11/18/adriatic-ionian-region-gentiloni-eu-enlargement-not-burden_6c717696-7ee4-43d0-a179-235a13fb6c29.html

Summary

Germany and Serbia

"Serbia is not begging for alms from the Germany, we are asking Germany to help us to develop our country and we want to learn many things from Germany" Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said after meeting German Vice-Chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel in Belgrade. Some Serbian media report that Berlin is still reluctant to consider the opening of certain chapters in Serbia-EU accession negotiations. Sigmar Gabriel underlined the importance of the chapters linked with the rule of law. Also, Berlin is insisting on the full implementation of 2013 Brussels agreement on the normalization of the relations between Belgrade and Pristina (balkaneu.com, GR, 18/11).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 18/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/sigmar-gabriel-eu-serbia/>

Croatian worries for BiH

Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić said her country had noticed Russia's recent stance on Bosnia and said it was a matter of concern, especially for Balkan countries. During a recent UN Security Council resolution on Bosnia, the Russian delegation requested a sentence mentioning "*the Euro-Atlantic perspective of Bosnia-Herzegovina*" be omitted. Russia abstained in the November 11 UN Security Council vote on the resolution, which extended the mandate of an EU peacekeeping force in Bosnia for another year. The unprecedented Russian action reflects Moscow's opposition to what its UN ambassador said were efforts to push Bosnia toward the EU (rferl.org, CZ, 18/11). In BiH newly-elected members of Bosnia's tripartite presidency pledged Monday to end the years-long political stalemate and revive reforms that would bring the country closer to EU membership (New Europe, BE, 18/11).

- rferl.org, CZ, 18/11, <http://www.rferl.org/content/bosnia-russia-croatia-eu/26697396.html>
- New Europe, BE, 18/11, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/bosnia-inaugurates-new-presidency-after-elections>

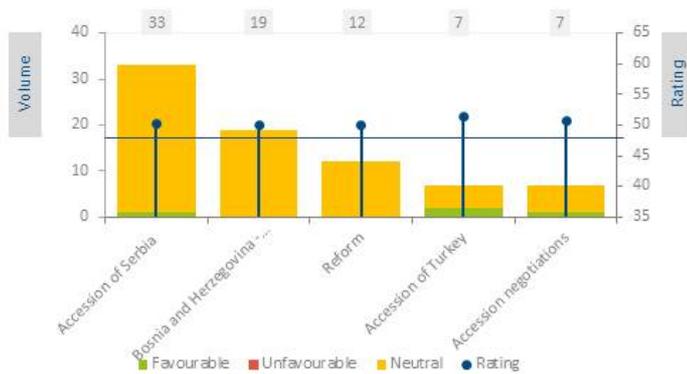
New Albanian budget

Albanian lawmakers backed a 2015 budget on Tuesday that projects economic growth at 3 percent and includes tax hikes to help cut the European Union candidate country's budget deficit and meet terms set out by its international lenders. The Socialist government aims to cut the deficit to 4% of GDP from an expected 6.6% in 2014 and reduce the national debt to 70.6% in 2015 from around 73% of GDP this year. The plan was adopted as officials from the International Monetary Fund arrived in the Balkan country for talks on disbursing the third tranche of a 330.9 million euro three-year loan agreed in February. An IMF review of the country's finances and economy in September was disrupted by the arrest of the central bank governor following a 713 million lek (\$6.6 million) theft by a bank employee. The opposition Democratic Party, which is boycotting parliament criticised the budget for being based on tax hikes for a second consecutive year (uk.reuters.com, UK, 18/11).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 18/11, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/18/us-albania-budget-idUKKCN0J200T20141118>

Charts

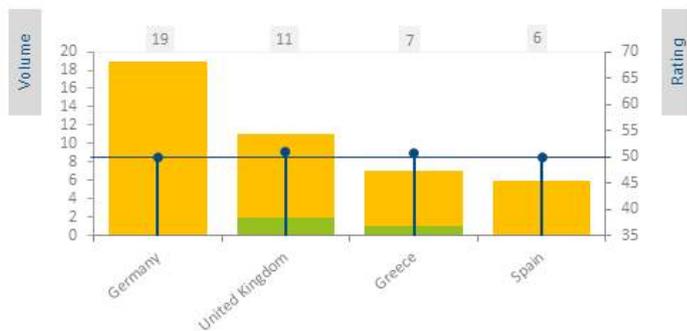
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Volume	56 items
Rating	50.2
Favourable %	5.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	94.6%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	28
Bakir Izetbegović- former Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina	12
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	3
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbian President	2
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	2
Vesna Pusić - Croatia FM	2

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