



## Key Quotes

Tens of thousands of Albanians protested on Saturday against tax hikes in next year's budget, accusing the Socialist-led government of impoverishing Albanians and falling short on its promises. Prime Minister Edi Rama's government has launched sweeping reforms since coming to power 14 months ago. Lulzim Basha, head of the opposition Democratic Party, accused Rama of arrogance in a speech to the crowd from a rostrum outside the prime minister's office. **"I ask you not to make the lives of Albanians harder,"** Basha urged Rama, his voice hoarse from speaking. **"Why aren't Albanians living better when they pay more?"** Rama wrote on Facebook that Albanians should not think the country could develop without hard work. Electricity theft and illegal building should stop, he said (yahoo!, UK, 22/11).

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/albanian-opposition-rallies-against-tax-power-burden-174329817--sector.html#w01ZOQh>

## Summary

### Commissioner Hahn in Serbia: uproar over sanctions quote

On a visit in Serbia on Thursday European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn saw for himself how delicate some issues are for the accession negotiations. An article in the Večernje Novosti reporting an interview with Mr Hahn was entitled "*Sanctions against Russia are Serbia's obligation*". Other media also gave the impression that Mr Hahn was applying pressure to issue sanctions against Russia. "*The title does not reflect my position at all*" said Mr Hahn, "*no one in Brussels wants to issue an ultimatum*" (Kurier, AT, 21/11).

- Kurier, AT, 21/11, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141121/mi/item\\_223468722.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141121/mi/item_223468722.pdf)

### Serbian view of sanctions

Serbia is not planning to impose sanctions on Russia, said its President Tomislav Nikolić after meeting EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn. What I heard from Hahn is the same what you have heard from him - Serbia is not an EU member and it can be independent in pursuing its foreign policy; but EU membership does imply a commitment to pursue a common foreign policy, the President said at a media conference after talks with Hahn (focus-news.net, BG, 21/11). "*The Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić was "crystal clear" on his country's foreign policy orientation and that the Serbian path is towards the European Union*" EU enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn said on Thursday in Belgrade. Hahn explained at the press conference that he was not "*insisting*" on the Ukraine crisis issue during his discussions with Vučić. He reiterated the Serbian position – respecting territorial integrity of Ukraine, but not imposing any sanctions against Russia (balkaneu.com, GR, 21/11).

- focus-news.net, BG, 21/11, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/11/21/355023/serbia-wont-join-anti-russian-sanctions-club-despite-eu-pressure-nikolic.html>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 21/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/hahn-vucic-crystal-clear-serbia-heads-eu/>

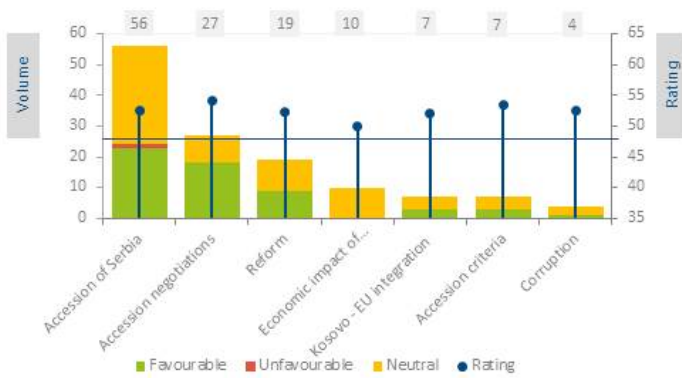
### Visa liberalisation for Turkey

Turkey is on its way to becoming a member of the Schengen area, the country's EU minister and chief negotiator, Volkan Bozkır, told correspondents during his official visit to Luxembourg. The European Commission launched a visa liberalization dialogue with Turkey on December 16 2013, setting out a list divided into five chapters of what Turkey must achieve to enable Turkish citizens to travel to the EU without a visa. The dialogue was initiated alongside a mission agreement that would result in illegal migrants who enter Europe via Turkey returning to Turkey. The agreement will enter into effect on December 16 2016. However, unlike other EU accession countries such as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkish nationals will have to wait for at least three years (ansamed.it, IT, 21/11).

- ansamed.it, IT, 21/11, [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/11/21/turkey-on-course-to-become-member-of-schengen-area-minister\\_a4ea6655-213b-476d-97b1-6430bbdfbd63.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2014/11/21/turkey-on-course-to-become-member-of-schengen-area-minister_a4ea6655-213b-476d-97b1-6430bbdfbd63.html)

# Charts

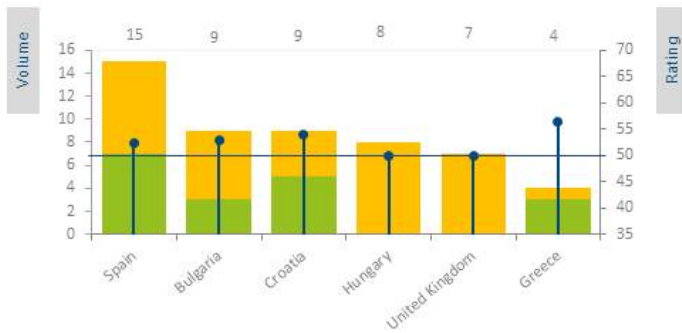
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by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	33
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	29
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	15
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	8
Peter Szijjarto - FM Hungary	8
Hashim Thaçi - Kosovo PM	4
Isa Mustafa - Kosovo politician	4

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