



Key Quotes

Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan told a meeting on women's rights that gender equality was contrary to nature and said feminists did not recognise the value of motherhood. **"You can't get a woman to work in every job that a man does, like they did in communist regimes in the past,"** he told the meeting of Turkey's Women and Democracy Association. **"Our religion gave woman a station. What station is this? The station of motherhood ... Motherhood is something different and is the most unobtainable, the highest station,"** he said. Economists cite the low numbers of women in the workforce as an obstacle to Turkey's development, while the European Union - which Turkey has been negotiating to join for over a decade - has urged the country to do more to improve gender equality (uk.reuters.com, UK, 24/11).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/uk-turkey-president-women-idUKKCN0J81MQ20141124>

Summary

Albanian taxpayers' revolt

Taxpayers in Albania have launched into protest, claiming that new tax measures enacted by the government to secure international credit will not help reduce unemployment, boost economic growth, or cut the national debt. Over the weekend protestors took to the streets of the capital of Albania, Tirana, to stand up against a number of recently approved tax changes, claiming that the amendments will further weaken the financial position of taxpayers with low-incomes. The recent tax hikes were part of a deal struck between the government of Albania and the International Monetary Fund to secure a loan to the country of EUR 330.9 million in exchange for tax raises and the enactment of several new measures to help fight crime tax evasion and fraud (Balkans.com, UK, 24/11).

- Balkans.com, UK, 24/11, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199016>

Working with and on Ankara

Thomas Mayer in a commentary in Der Standard (AT, 24/11) writes that the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, has specified that the goal of his work with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini is to help the EU calm some of the trouble spots in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Mayer writes that Turkey plays a key role in these endeavours especially in light of the signals sent by Vladimir Putin. The EU needs Turkey - and vice versa. Balkans.com (UK, 24/11) reports that opposition politician, Sayek Böke, saying *"We are a very globally connected country and we should remain so but we have to read the world better and start building global connections to ensure that we find access to Asia. [We should be] a Turkey facing the EU in terms of the reform agenda, but generating economic strength through access to the Asian market"*.

- Der Standard, AT, 24/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141124/mi/item_223826276.pdf
- Balkans.com, UK, 24/11, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199049>

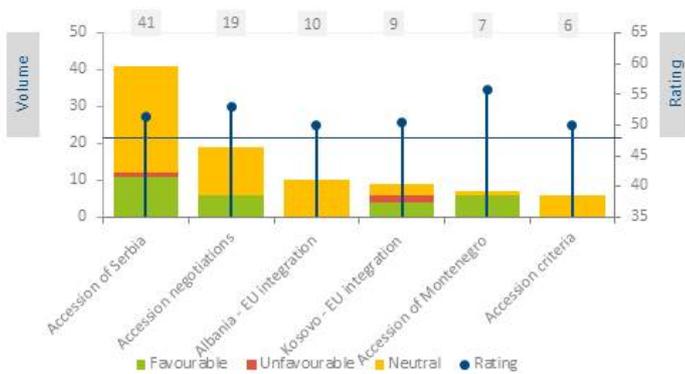
Serbia and sanctions

Russian Duma Speaker, Sergei Naryshkin, told an international conference in Astana Kazakhstan that an EU official's statement that Serbia must join sanctions against Russia otherwise there was no place for Serbia in the European Union was rude and interfering. Naryshkin said such an EU stance *"contradicts the norms of the international law and is in fact blackmail"* adding *"It is clear that such steps have nothing in common with the principles of sovereign equality or the principles of respect towards history culture and traditions of the partner-state"* Naryshkin said (ibox.bg, BG, 24/11). Der Standard (AT, 24/11) comments that Belgrade in a quandary between the EU and Russia.

- ibox.bg, BG, 24/11, http://news.ibox.bg/news/id_458370085
- Der Standard, AT, 24/11, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141124/mi/item_223826152.pdf

Charts

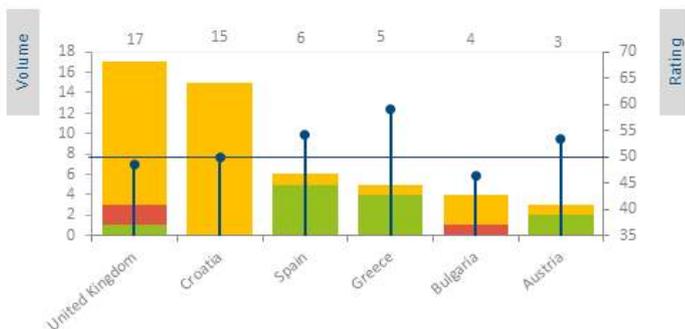
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Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	12
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	12
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	12
Edi Rama - Albania PM	8
Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	6
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	5

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