



Key Quotes

Pope Francis address to the European Parliament: "**Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, awareness of one's own identity is also necessary for entering into a positive dialogue with the States which have asked to become part of the Union in the future. I am thinking especially of those in the Balkans, for which membership in the European Union could be a response to the desire for peace in a region which has suffered greatly from past conflicts**" (zeit.de, DE, 25/11).

<http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2014-11/papst-rede-europaparlament>

Summary

Conditions for Serbia

The opening of new chapters in the negotiations between Serbia and the European Union depends on the overall implementation of the Brussels agreement, Serbian Blic newspaper writes. According to unofficial information, Brussels has set eight conditions connected with Kosovo, the implementation of which will lead to opening new chapters. In the meantime, Serbia is also expected to observe everything agreed in Pristina. Some of the EU requirements include; a draft bill on the status of the Association of the Serbian municipalities; implementation of the agreement of the international telephone code for Kosovo; implementation of the agreement in the field of energy; blocking the illegal checkpoints because of the smuggling among others (focus-news.net, BG, 25/11).

- focus-news.net, BG, 25/11, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/11/25/355472/blic-eu-sets-8-conditions-related-to-kosovo-for-serbias-accession-bid.html>

Push for Kosovo recognition

The Diplomatic Academy of the Republic of Kosovo, in collaboration with its counterpart in Vienna launched two day conference for multilateral diplomacy called "*Opportunities and challenges for the accession of Kosovo in international organizations*". This conference was opened by the head of the Vienna Diplomatic Academy, ambassador Hans Winkler and head of the Diplomatic Academy of Kosovo, Skender Durmishi. The conference was addressed through a video link by the rapporteur on Kosovo in the European Parliament, Ulrike Lunacek. She said that activities such as this conference, should encourage countries which have not yet recognized Kosovo, to do this as soon as possible, adding that neutrality toward Kosovo's status is something which should not exist in international relations (focus-news.net, BG, 25/11).

- focus-news.net, BG, 25/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/lunacek-demands-recognition-state-kosovo/>

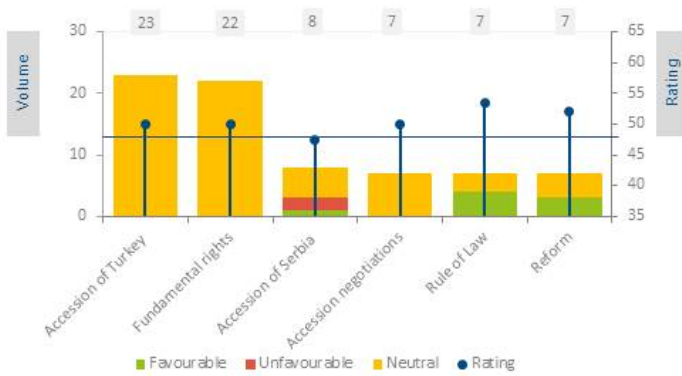
EU attitude to Balkans

Angela Merkel has said the EU's policy toward the states of the Western Balkans has been one of benign neglect, to say the least. There has been one exception. Catherine Ashton, the EU's former foreign policy chief, invested huge amounts of her time in negotiating a reconciliation between Serbia and Kosovo. Behind the scenes the German Chancellery played a crucial role in nudging the two sides to the table. For Berlin, this was about bringing long-term stability to the Western Balkans but it was also about bringing the region closer to the EU and eventually, to EU membership. That is something that Russia is now trying to slow down—if not stop. Russia has long focused much of its attention on Belgrade, which has traditionally had firm ties with Moscow. Russia is also meddling in neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina and has sought to maintain its influence in Montenegro too. Yet Milo Đukanović, the country's leader, has defied his critics and Russian pressure by managing to steer Montenegro toward the EU and NATO (EurActiv.com, BG, 25/11).

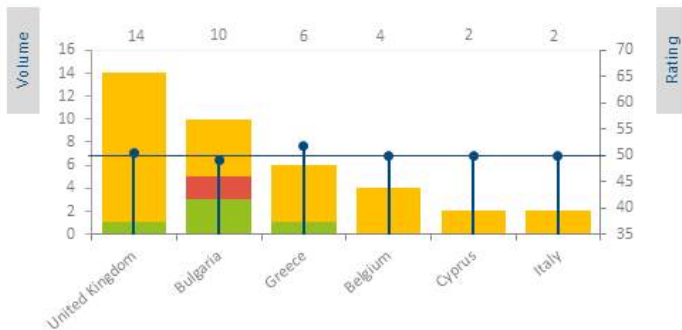
- EurActiv.com, BG, 25/11, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/europes-east/western-balkans-are-becoming-russias-new-playground-310283>

Charts

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



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



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ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	41 items
Rating	50.1
Favourable %	12.2%
Unfavourable %	4.9%
Neutral %	82.9%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	22
Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	3
Meglena Kuneva - Bulgarian politician	6
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	2
Catherine Ashton	2
Jean-Claude Juncker	2
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	2
Sergey Naryshkin - Chairman of the Russian Duma	2

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