



## Key Quotes

Montenegro Prime Minister Milo Đukanović said he believes the future of Western Balkan nations depends on joining the European Union and NATO. **“We are of the opinion that the lives of people will improve with the access to the EU membership,”** he said. Đukanović said Montenegro has been involved in accession negotiations with the EU for about two years. He said this process has enjoyed **“impressively large support”** within the country, even though enthusiasm has waned over time largely due to the drawn-out euro crisis (neurope.eu, BE, 30/11).

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/dukanovic-highlights-eu-nato-membership-balkans>

## Summary

### Tension between Serbia and Croatia

The resolution concerning Vojislav Šešelj, the Serbian Radical Party leader, adopted by the European Parliament is offensive to Serbia as well as annoying and disappointing for its citizens, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said on Thursday. On the initiative of Croatian MEP's, the EP stated that Serbia has failed to react legally or politically to Vojislav Šešelj's *“hate speech”* (balkaneu.com, GR, 28/11). Croatia's Prime Minister has cancelled a trip to neighbouring Serbia following the release in the latest sign of revived tensions between the former Balkan foes. The release, and the muted reaction from Belgrade officials, has angered Croatia, which fought a war of independence with its rebel minority Serbs backed by Belgrade, including Šešelj's militia. Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić and Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić are both former members of Šešelj's Radical Party. They quit in 2008, five years after Šešelj surrendered to The Hague, and have embraced the cause of joining the EU. Šešelj accuses them of betraying Serbia's national interest (uk.reuters.com, UK, 28/11).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 28/11, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ep-resolution-seselj-offensive-serbia/>
- uk.reuters.com, UK, 28/11, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/28/uk-croatia-serbia-warcrimes-idUKKCN0JC0VT20141128>

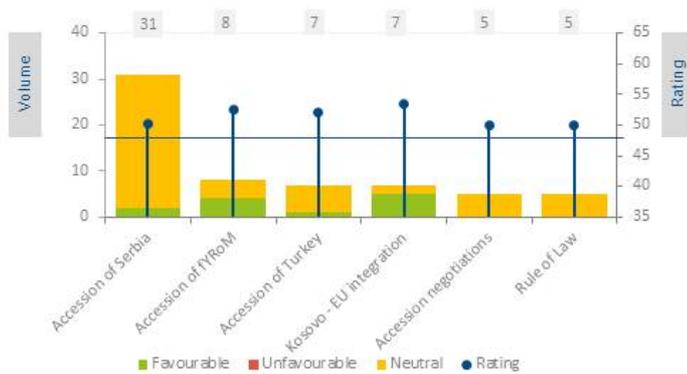
### Germany seeks to bolster influence in the Balkans and Russia is concerned

Germany is stepping up its engagement in the Balkans amid growing fears in Berlin that Russia is seeking to reassert itself beyond Ukraine and further into southeast Europe. President Joachim Gauck visited Slovenia this week in the latest display of Berlin's determination to counter fears of growing regional Russian influence (Financial Times, UK, 28/11). Meanwhile Moscow has demanded explanations from Balkan countries concerning the sudden rise in exports to Russia, in particular from Bosnia, worried that the EU is getting round its embargo on agricultural produce (lepoint.fr, FR, 28/11).

- Financial Times, UK, 28/11, [Link not available]
- lepoint.fr, FR, 28/11, [http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/crise-ukrainienne-moscou-demande-aux-balkans-des-explications-sur-la-hausse-de-leurs-exportations-28-11-2014-1885186\\_24.php#xtor=RSS-221](http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/crise-ukrainienne-moscou-demande-aux-balkans-des-explications-sur-la-hausse-de-leurs-exportations-28-11-2014-1885186_24.php#xtor=RSS-221)

# Charts

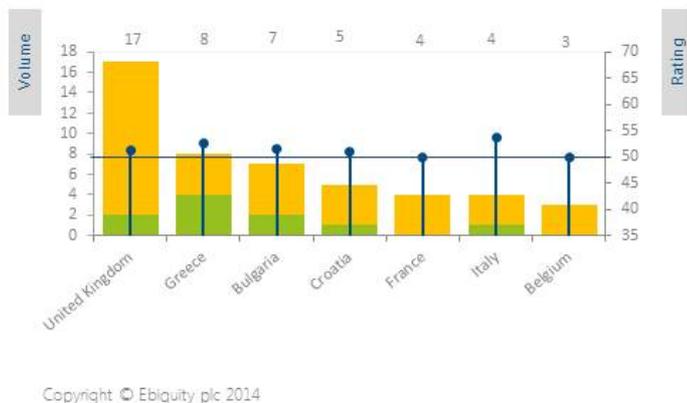
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Vojislav Šešelj - Serbian politician	23
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	8
Pope Francis	5
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4
Vesna Pusić - Foreign Minister Croatia	4
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	3
Zoran Milanović - PM Croatia	3

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