



Key Quotes

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi writes that **"the EU accession process is the most important component of our internal and external reform drive. Kosovo is close to signing its first formal agreement with the EU, and we are deeply engaged in implementing conditionality for visa liberalization with the Schengen community. Furthermore, we are pursuing regional cooperation and dialogue with our neighbours in line with Kosovo's Copenhagen criteria commitments. In particular, Kosovo has signed numerous technical agreements with Serbia and engaged proactively in closing the chapters of the past with former foes"** (blogs.lse.ac.uk, UK, 22/12).
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsee/2014/12/22/guest-blog-by-hashim-thaci-kosovos-new-foreign-policy-roadmap/>

Summary

Serbia's judicial system

In a CNN interview Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić stated that Serbia hopes it can become member of the EU in 2020. The Prime Minister noted that he is still very worried about the judicial and legal system in which many things need to be reformed. There is no problem with political will. There are no protected persons, there are no protected tycoons, protected politicians, he added. The problem is there is still an old system where people can work on each case for years, not to say for decades. That is something that will have to change in order to ensure a more successful fight against corruption. *"I am confident that we can attract more investors if we are able to increase the number of solved cases and improve the legal system. We will do everything in our power and will work hard to achieve that"*, Vučić stated (Balkans.com, UK, 22/12).

- Balkans.com, UK, 22/12, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199879>

Bulgarian re-run of the dispute between Greece and Macedonia

For the sixth time the EC has recommended the start of negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A group of fifteen EU members including Slovenia failed to convince Greece and Bulgaria to at least start examining the question, if not setting the date for the beginning of accession negotiations. Yet it must be admitted that their own politicians are putting spokes in their own wheels, particularly the Prime Minister who is considered by his political opponents to be a *"little Orban"* or a *"little Erdoğan"* (Delo, SI, 22/12).

- Delo, SI, 22/12, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20141222/mi/item_227944996.pdf

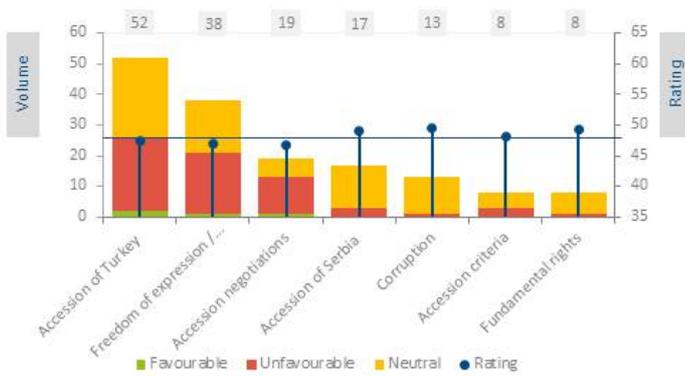
Serbia's relationship with Russia

The speaker of Serbia's parliament has promised Russia that the Balkan nation will never impose sanctions on Moscow. Serbia is seeking to join the European Union, but has not followed the EU in imposing sanctions on Russia. Speaking in Moscow on December 22nd, Serbian National Assembly President Maja Gojković assured Russian lawmakers that Serbia's position would not change. She said Serbia's strategic decision to join the EU is not and will not be an impediment to further development of fraternal relations with Russia. *"Serbia will never impose sanctions on Russia because sanctions have never done any good to anyone and cannot help resolve any problems"* she said. The EU enlargement negotiations Commissioner, Johannes Hahn, indicated last month that Serbia's failure to join sanctions was not a formal obstacle to progress in its EU membership bid, but said Serbia *"should progressively align its foreign policy position to the EU's."* (rferl.org, CZ, 22/12).

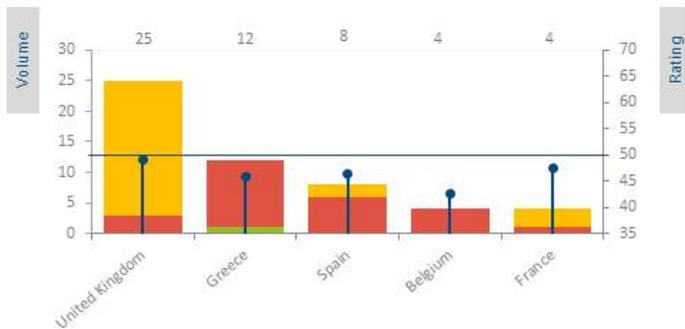
- rferl.org, CZ, 22/12, <http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-serbia-eu/26756468.html>

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	69 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	2.9%
Unfavourable %	39.1%
Neutral %	58%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	47
Fethullah Gulen - Turkish opposition leader in US	41
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	14
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	8
Sergei Lavrov - Russian FM	8
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	6
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	4

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