



Key Quotes

"We see our relationship with the EU as a win-win relationship, based on mutual interests," Turkish EU Minister Volkan Bozkir said, adding that the EU needs Turkey more than Turkey needs the EU. Talking about negotiation chapters, he said: **"Opening chapters is no longer a problem for Turkey,"** adding that **"Opening chapters is the responsibility of the EU. We will be glad if they open the chapters, but we will not, if they do not."** (hri.org, CY, 8/1)

<http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2015/15-01-08.tcpr.html#10>

Summary

Serbia Kosovo tensions

Federica Mogherini, the European Union's foreign-policy chief, has called for a resumption of talks to normalise relations between Kosovo and Serbia on 9 February, following a six-month hiatus caused by the protracted formation of a Kosovar government. Mogherini has also indicated that she intends to maintain the level of engagement shown by her predecessor, Catherine Ashton, who chaired 23 meetings between Kosovar and Serb leaders and brokered a landmark agreement in April 2013. In a report published in October by the Central European Policy Institute, a Bratislava-based think-tank, local analysts argued that Mogherini will need act as a "strong mediator" to impose "strong conditionality" and to ensure "clarity" in agreements if the talks are to resolve the many practical problems created by the disputes between Serbia and Kosovo (EuropeanVoice.com, BE, 8/1). Serbia's Foreign Minister, Ivica Dačić commented the declaration by Kosovo's Foreign Minister Hashim Thaçi that Serbia had an "expansionist mentality". He said that Serbia is determined to pursue dialogue and stability in the region but it seems that its constructiveness is being seen as a weakness in Pristina (balkaneu.com, GR, 8/1).

- EuropeanVoice.com, BE, 8/1, <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/kosovo-serbia-talks-to-resume-in-february/>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 8/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/serbia-expansionist-plans-kosovo-dacic/>

Direction of Latvia's EU Presidency

Latvia will need to manage a number of problems by the summer. These will include, the overseeing of the multibillion dollar stimulus package of President Jean-Claude Juncker, as well keeping an eye on immigration into Europe following the rise of the Islamist Isis fighters in Syria and Iraq. Concerning Russia the Prime Minister, Laimdota Straujuma, said Latvia will adopt neither a pro-Russian nor an anti-Russian position in its EU presidency, adding "This will be the first Latvian Presidency of the EU and therefore we will tackle it with great responsibility". Also, Riga is understood to wish to promote EU enlargement and to seek progress in the dialogue between the EU and Turkey (Die Presse, AT, 8/1).

- Die Presse, AT, 8/1, http://diepresse.com/home/politik/eu/4633077/Ratspraesidentschaft_Riga-will-in-UkraineKrise-vermitteln?_vl_backlink=/home/politik/eu/index.do

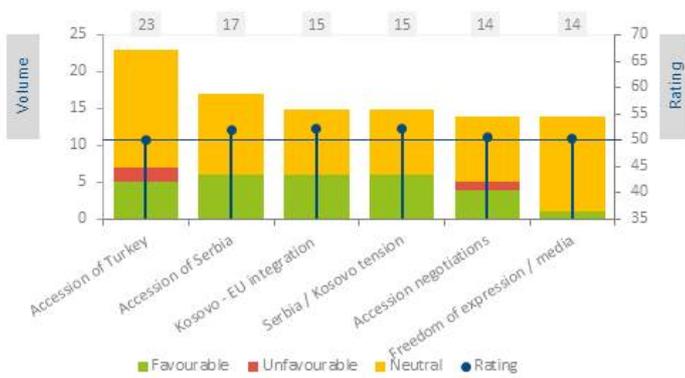
Montenegro in the EU? No problem; Kosovo? Big problem

La Vanguardia (ES, 8/1) features an interview with Graham Avery, a European Commission Honorary Director-General. Presented as an expert in the EU's enlargement process, he discusses Montenegro and Kosovo. The former territory reached a constitutional agreement on self-determination with Belgrade prior to independence, so he says its EU membership poses no problem. "But that was not the case of Kosovo, so its accession into the bloc raises big problems" he adds.

- La Vanguardia, ES, 8/1, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150108/mi/item_229750633.pdf

Charts

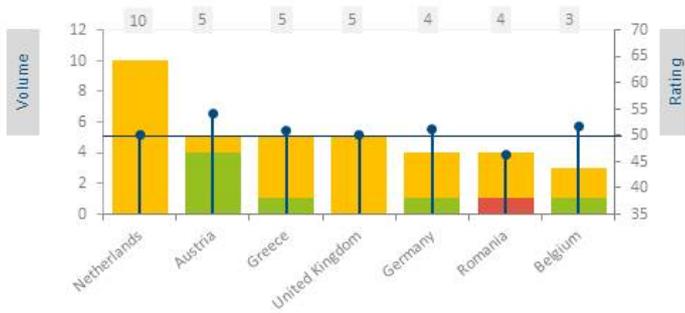
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Bert Koenders - Netherlands FM	11
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - Turkey FM	7
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	7
Jean-Claude Juncker – President EC	5
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4
Edgars Rinkevics - FM Latvia	4

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