



## Key Quotes

European Parliament rapporteur on Serbia David McAllister stated in the first draft of a resolution on Serbia that the European Parliament welcomes the commitment of the Serbian government to European integration and the socio-economic reforms they are actively implementing; but adds that **“further progress in judiciary reform is necessary”**. On foreign policy it says **“We call on Serbia to harmonize its foreign and security policy with the EU including policies towards Russia”**. Looking at the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, McAllister notes that the process has been in abeyance in 2014 due to elections in Serbia and Kosovo but goes on to say **“We underline that the framework for the negotiations in Chapter 35 requires progress in other chapters and that Chapter 35 should be among first to be opened”** (balkaneu.com, GR, 9/1).

<http://www.balkaneu.com/serbia-harmonize-foreign-policy-eu/>

## Summary

### The future of liberal democracy

For decades the European Union symbolised “liberal democracy” as a political project, one that would be disseminated through its enlargement and neighbourhood policies. In 2014, the EU discovered two major hurdles in its near abroad. Putin and Erdoğan: Bedfellows in authoritarianism. It doesn't take a crystal ball to guess that 2015 will see more of the same. Despite many differences between these two important neighbours, it is quite obvious that, for their own reasons, both Putin and Erdoğan will keep contradicting or chastising the EU as often as needed in their highly-charged populist political style, while engaging with the EU for vital economic reasons. The challenge for the EU lies in the growing distance between rhetoric and reality, which translates into a rapid-fire dual discourse vis-a-vis the EU. In response the EU leadership has to fine-tune its foreign policy toolbox in order to stand firm as the major peace and democracy project in today's world (euobserver.com, BE, 9/1).

- euobserver.com, BE, 9/1, <https://euobserver.com/opinion/127147>

### Situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In an opinion piece, Kire Naumov, a former head of the Agency for Counter Intelligence and member of the steering committee of the largest opposition party, LSDM worries that, following on from the current government a long period of decontamination of social life will be required. He suggests that what is needed is a return to a pro-European and pro-Western idea for the future, rather than the views peddled by the regime's media including old forgotten stereotypes to ruin the image of Albanians (balkaneu.com, GR, 9/1).

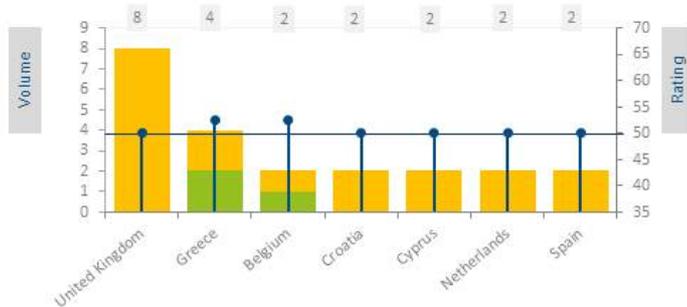
- balkaneu.com, GR, 9/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ibna-op-ednormalization-imperative/>

# 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	25 items
Rating	50.8
Favourable %	16%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	84%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	2
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	2
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	1
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	1
Volkan Bozkır - Turkey EU Affairs Minister	1
Marc Pierini - Carnegie Europe	1
Afitete Jahjaga - President Kosovo	1
Bujar Nishani - President Albania	1
David McAllister EP Rapporteur Serbia	1

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