



Key Quotes

"I think the presidents should be locked up in a room until they come up with a solution," says Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić of the leaders of Russia and the European Union. Serbia certainly has the credentials to act as honest broker in the dispute that has arisen over the conflict in Ukraine. It has just completed its first year of formal negotiations to join the EU. But it is maintaining its strong ties with Russia and refusing to implement sanctions, despite pressure from Brussels. President Nikolić admits that his country is in an awkward situation, with two of its most important partners at loggerheads, and he sees it as a major challenge, **"It's like having two children - you can't disown one of them,"** he says, **"We cannot sever our traditional ties with Russia. Our people would never forgive us."** (BBC, UK, 22/1).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-eu-30914038>

Summary

Thaçi visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Kosovo's Foreign Minister, Hashim Thaçi on a visit to his counterpart Nikola Popovski, declared in Skopje that Athens could use the model used between Pristina and Belgrade for the solution of the disputes that exist between them. The two men agreed on boosting bilateral cooperation, regional issues and also signed two agreements. Thaçi declared that Kosovo shares similar goals to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in its path toward NATO and EU accession, but according to him, to attain these goals, current problems must be solved. He said *"we will always support your aspirations for accession in the NATO and EU, but we also offer our support in order to find a solution for the name dispute with Greece"* (Balkan.eu, GR, 22/1).

- Balkan.eu, GR, 22/1, <http://www.balkan.eu.com/thaci-skopje-model-talks-pristina-belgrade-solution-dispute/>

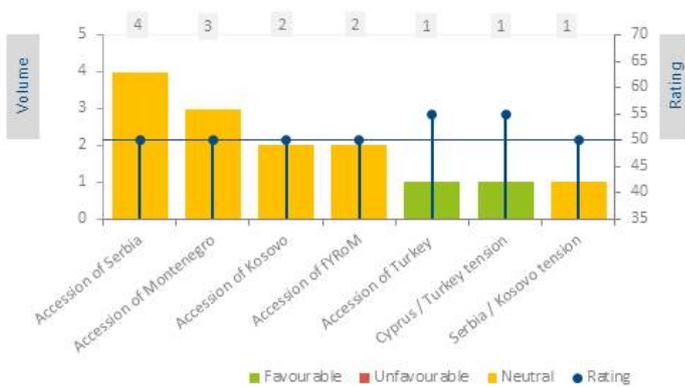
Kosovo miners stay underground

Hundreds of miners in Kosovo refused to resurface at the end of their shift on Tuesday to protest a government policy reversal on the fate of the mine, which is claimed by the country's former master Serbia. Fearing bankruptcy, Kosovo's new government said last week it would take control of the sprawling Trepca mining complex, but backtracked on Monday following a furious response from Serbia and intense discussions with Western diplomats. Serbia, which does not recognize Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence and claims some 75 percent of Trepca, had warned that any attempt by Pristina to take over the mine would jeopardize EU-mediated talks between the two sides (Reuters, UK, 22/1).

- Reuters, UK, 21/1, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/20/uk-kosovo-miners-strike-idUSKBN0KT2CL20150120>

Charts

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Volume	13 items
Rating	51.7
Favourable %	15.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	84.6%

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Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	1
Nikola Poposki - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FM	1
Hashim Thaçi - Kosovo FM	1

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