



Key Quotes

In an interview with Večernji list MEP Tonino Picula expressed his belief that it is the legitimate right of each MEP to discuss the problems individual countries have on their European path, and thus rejects the idea of Croatian MEPs being too critical of Serbia. **“There are countless questions Serbia should be resolving for its own sake and for which Croatia is also interested, as it is in our best interest to have a stable European neighbour,”** Mr Picula said. (Vecernji-List-HR, HR, 25/01)

http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150125/mi/item_232332695.pdf

Summary

Swiss Investors interested in investing in Serbia

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić on his second day in Davos had a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Sberbank, Herman Gref, and pointed out the importance of economic cooperation between Serbia and Russia, as well as the role of Sberbank in this cooperation. Gref offered the government of Serbia help with the reform of public administration. Vučić also met with the Vice President of Switzerland and Swiss Economy Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann, and invited the Vice President of Switzerland to visit Serbia together with a delegation of Swiss businessmen interested in investing in the country, which he accepted (Balkans.com, UK, 23/1). Speaking about Thursday's meetings with officials and company representatives, Vučić told the Serbian state broadcaster RTS that he and European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans discussed Serbia's European path, and said that Timmermans had welcomed the economic reforms (bta.bg, BG, 23/1).

- Balkans.com, UK, 23/1, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=200626>
- bta.bg, BG, 23/1, <http://www.bta.bg/bg/c/BA/id/998953>

Kosovo links with Montenegro

During his recent visit to Montenegro, Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister Thaçi once again raised the issue of the construction of a railroad that would connect Montenegro with Kosovo. Thaçi discussed with Montenegrin officials about the realisation of the project of building the railway from Pljevlja, over Berane to Peć. Coal would be transported from Pljevlja to Kosovo's power plants and Kosovo will export minerals to the port of Bar (balkaneu.com, GR, 23/1). The project worth 1.2 billion euros would strengthen the Montenegrin and Kosovo economies. A source close to the Montenegrin ruling coalition confirmed that the railway was discussed and that the re-actualisation of the 2012 is being seriously considered (seebiz.eu, HR, 23/1).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 23/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovo-construction-railway-montenegro/>
- seebiz.eu, HR, 23/1, <http://www.seebiz.eu/thaci-lobira-za-prugu-pljevlja-berane-pec/ar-103495/>

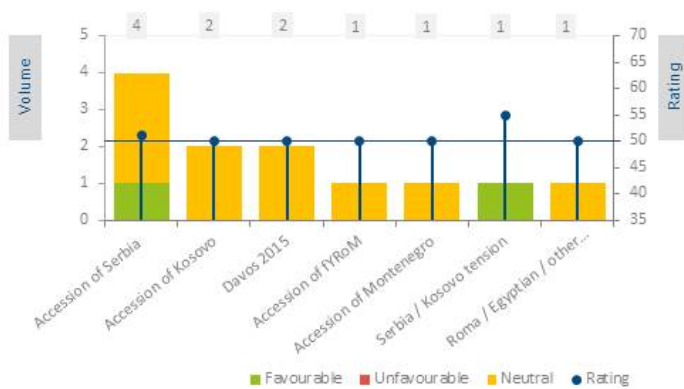
Discrimination against LGBT community in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Macedonian government is inciting homophobia through the constitutional amendments it has adopted, members of the LGBT community said, after the parliament passed amendments defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. According to the LGBT community, the government is obliged to fight against homophobia and discrimination under a number of international agreements. The LGBT community also recalled cases of attacks on their members when the authorities did not impose punishments on those responsible (focus-fen.net, BG, 23/1). Dosmanzanas.com (ES, 23/1) notes that the Venice Committee (an advisory body of the Council of Europe on constitutional issues) in a report dated October 2014 criticized the amendment saying it should provide same-sex couples the same level of legal recognition which already exists for different-sex couples.

- focus-fen.net, BG, 23/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/01/23/361062/vest-macedonia-govt-incites-homophobia-through-constitutional-amendments-lgbt-community-thinks.html>
- Dosmanzanas.com, ES, 23/1, <http://www.dosmanzanas.com/2015/01/el-parlamento-de-macedonia-vota-en-contrad-el-matrimonio-igualitario-y-torpedea-una-futura-ley-de-parejas-de-hecho.html>

Charts

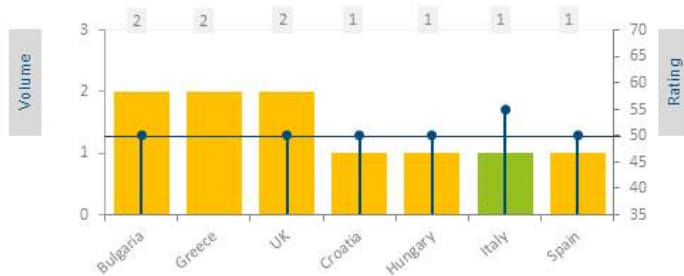
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Volume	10 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	10%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	90%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	3
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	2
Federica Mogherini - HR Foreign Affairs	1
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	1
Frans Timmermans - First Vice-President EC	1
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	1

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