



Key Quotes

Civil rights groups in Albania are calling on officials to diffuse tensions and protect minorities from discrimination and potential violence as a result of the decision to scrap the existing municipalities and create a new territorial administration. The government reduced the 384 local government units to 65, effectively creating entirely Albanian-majority municipalities. Minority representatives said the government's move violates their rights and international norms. **"The territorial reform runs contrary to the spirit of the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and it constitutes a flagrant violation of the accepted European standards,"** said Vangjel Dule, leader of the Union for Human Rights Party in Tirana. (Balkans.com, UK, 28/1) <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniqueid=200736>

Summary

No solution to the name dispute in the near future

New Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his coalition partner Panos Kammenos have reached agreement on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. According to Utrinski Vesnik daily, Nikolaos Kotzias will be the new Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs. Kammenos agreed to back SYRIZA's economic policies, as long as Tsipras did not "move forward" as regards foreign policy matters that Kammenos's party is interested in. The name dispute with the former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia is one such matter. Vecer writes that the Independent Greeks party has, in the past, often asked former prime minister Antonis Samaras if he "had sold" the name and consented to the neighbouring country having a complex name with a geographical term containing the name of Macedonia, which they are against (focus-fen.net, BG, 28/1).

- focus-fen.net, BG, 28/1, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/01/28/361539/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-alexis-tsipras-panos-kammenos-reach-agreement-on-name-issue.html>

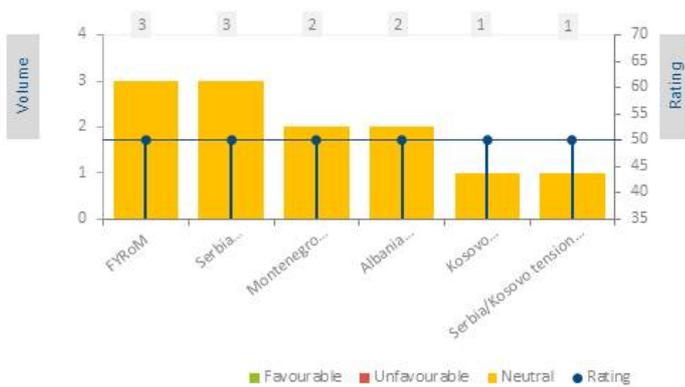
Progress in Montenegro

After eight years, the Council of Europe has stopped the monitoring of Montenegro. In the opinion of deputies in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Montenegro has made significant progress, but some measure of control will still exist, so the Council of Europe will remain. One of the deputies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which is preparing a resolution, Terry Leyden, said that the Council wants to ensure the strengthening of the independence of the judiciary. "Several important laws in parliament must be fully in compliance with the recommendations of the Venice Commission and the position of newly elected Supreme Public Prosecutor must be strengthened", said Leyden. The Council of Europe has announced that special attention must be focused on the issues of media freedom. French representative Bemar Fumia said that Montenegro has demonstrated courage when it comes to the relationship with Russia, by supporting EU sanctions (Balkaneu.com, GR, 28/1).

- Balkaneu.com, GR, 28/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/council-europe-abolished-monitoring-montenegro/>

Charts

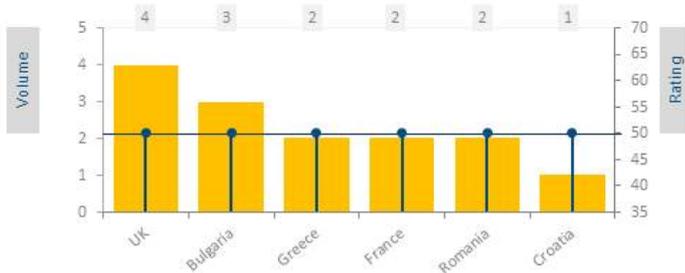
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by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	14 items
Rating	50
Favourable %	0%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	100%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Alexis Tsipras – Greek PM	1
Nikolaos Kotzias	1
Marko Dzuric, Director for the Office for Kosovo and Metohija	1
Milo Djukanovic – Montenegro PM	1
Vangjel Dule - leader of the Union for Human Rights Party in Tirana	1
Aleksandar Vucic – PM Serbia	1

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