



## Key Quotes

The EU is concerned about political developments in Skopje. The EU has been informed by the Foreign Ministry in Skopje about details regarding the accusations against four people, including Zoran Zaev (leader of the opposition in Macedonia), who is allegedly suspected of espionage and launching violent threats aimed at government officials with the goal of undermining the constitutional order. **"These are very serious charges and we recall the inalienable right for an independent and transparent investigation in case of any alleged wrongdoing, with full respect of the rights of the defendants in accordance with the law and international standards, including the principle of presumption of innocence,"** noted the statement. **"The EU also reiterates its concern about the deterioration in political dialogue in the country. Political parties must refrain from actions which would further undermine the situation."** (protothema.gr, GR, 1/2)

<http://www.protothema.gr/world/article/447618/anisuhia-ee-gia-tis-politikes-exelixeis-sta-skopia/>

## Summary

### Bosnia and Herzegovina acceptance of statement

In a statement, Bosnia and Herzegovina commits to the implementation of economic, social and political reform in order for the European Union to unblock the process of its alignment. *"This statement is necessary in order see it who is, and who is not, for Europe"* said Mladen Ivanić, Chairman of the Presidency, after the adoption of the statement. He added that for him personally, there is no doubt that European law is the only way forward for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The adoption of such a political statement is required as a prerequisite to the entry into force of the stabilization and association agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was signed in 2008. The implementation of the agreement has opened the way for Bosnia and Herzegovina to receive hundreds of millions of euros from European funds. (Slovenska Tiskovna Agencija, HR, 29/1)

- Slovenska Tiskovna Agencija, SI, 29/1, <http://www.sta.si/vest.php?s=s&id=2098303>

### US influence in Serbia

The American business community is interested in investing in the Western Balkans, US Senator Christopher Murphy said. Radio and television in Serbia has quoted him as saying that United States could become *"an alternative gas supplier"* in the Balkan region. Murphy has also compared Serbia with Ukraine, Radio Free Europe reported. Murphy underlined that market and judicial reforms are the key preconditions for the greater presence of American capital in each Eastern-European country. According to Voice of America, the interest of U.S. companies in Western Balkans was among the issues discussed at the panel of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington earlier this week. Murphy answered a number of questions dealing with U.S. politics in South-Eastern Europe. Murphy, a Democratic Party senator from Connecticut, strives for stronger engagement of U.S. in Western Balkans so that greater Russian influence can be prevented. (balkaneu.com, GR, 30/1)

- balkaneu.com, GR, 30/1, <http://www.balkaneu.com/u-s-senator-compares-serbia-ukraine/>

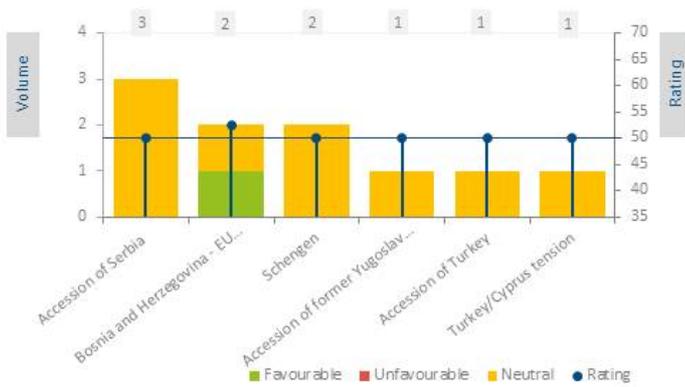
### Infrastructure projects for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's nominal budget deficit will begin to shrink in 2015, despite higher government expenditure. Stronger economic growth and institutional endorsement by the EU of the country's latest infrastructure spending programmes, mean that the increase in public debt to above 40% of GDP will not prove overly costly for the government. Broad-based convergence efforts and a peg to the euro mean that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's sovereign credentials will remain robust over the coming years, despite a central government push to step up public spending on infrastructure development. Moreover, despite lingering political uncertainty and a flawed policy-making process, the centre-right government of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski holds a parliamentary majority and will be well-placed to enforce fiscal targets throughout its term in office. (Balkans.com, UK, 30/1)

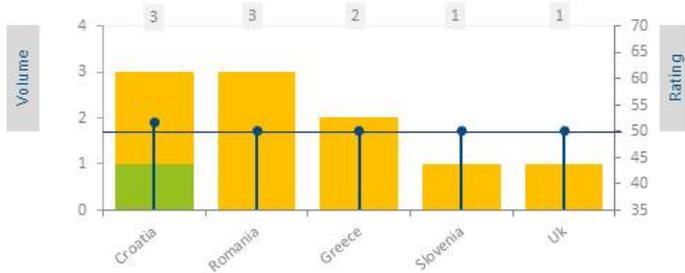
Balkans.com, UK, 30/1, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=200841>

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

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Vesna Pusić - Criatia FM	2
David McAllister - German Politician	2
Klaus Iohannis - President Romania	2
Davor Stier - Croatian politician	2
Marijana Petir - MEP	2
Mladen Ivanić Chair BiH Presidency	2
Philip Hammond - UK FM	2

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