



Key Quotes

Serbia's judiciary lags behind EU Member States, including the EU11, and those areas that are under-performing need to be addressed, according to the World Bank's Serbia Judicial Functional Review, presented in Belgrade. **"Many courts perform well against EU standards, yet others reflect poorly on the rest. So, overall, the picture is mixed,"** says Klaus Decker, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist. **"The lack of consistency is itself a problem because people expect equal access and uniform application of the law,"** says Georgia Harley, World Bank Justice Reform Specialist. **"In the years ahead, more should be done to address under-performance. Lifting under-performing courts to the current average would bring Serbia's performance in line with European jurisdictions."** (Tribuna Economica, IT, 5/2)

<http://www.tribuna.com/eportale/it/2014-03-20-23-48-00/22652-world-bank-serbia-s-judicial-system-needs-to-address-under-performance>

Summary

Controversial financial assistance for Turkey

W. Mender in the Munchner Merkur (DE, 4/2) writes that Turkey is funded with billions from Europe. In order to make Turkey a respectable partner, the EU is investing huge sums, in the period 2007-2014 a not inconsiderable 5,413,500,000 euros, and in 2015 according to current estimates it will be 370,500,000 euros. Mender suggests that the situation is tricky because on the one hand, the EU accession negotiations have proved to be the best available lever for reforms in Turkey, but on the other hand to stop payments means a termination of the pre-accession process as a whole. Hellenic Resources Network, (CY, 3/2) reports that in a recent speech about EU membership, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu did not say anything about upholding the most basic tenets of democracy, including freedom of expression and freedom of speech, or defending an independent judiciary and the rule of law, all of which are hallmarks of advanced democracies.

- Munchner Merkur, DE, 4/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150204/mi/item_233696711.pdf
- Hellenic Resources Network, CY, 3/2, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2015/15-02-03.tcpr.html#13>

Illegal migration from Kosovo

The European Union is experiencing a steep rise in the number of Kosovo citizens smuggling themselves into the affluent bloc, with 10,000 filing for asylum in Hungary in just one month this year compared to 6,000 for the whole of 2013. It follows a relaxation of travel rules allowing Kosovars to reach EU borders via Serbia and has coincided with political turmoil and street unrest in Kosovo fuelled by poverty, high unemployment and economically debilitating corruption. Over the past few days, crowds of people were seen boarding night busses from the Kosovo capital Pristina bound for Serbia's capital Belgrade, more than halfway to Hungary. Among them, 18-year-old student Vilson Beqiri said he would take a second bus from Belgrade to the northern Serbian town of Subotica and then cross the border into Hungary illegally. *"We'll meet some other people there (in Subotica), pay them and they'll lead us to Hungary"* he said. *"God willing I'll be in Germany by tomorrow evening"* (Dailymail.co.uk, UK, 4/2).

- Dailymail.co.uk, UK, 4/2, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2939335/Dramatic-surge-Kosovars-crossing-illegally-EU.html>

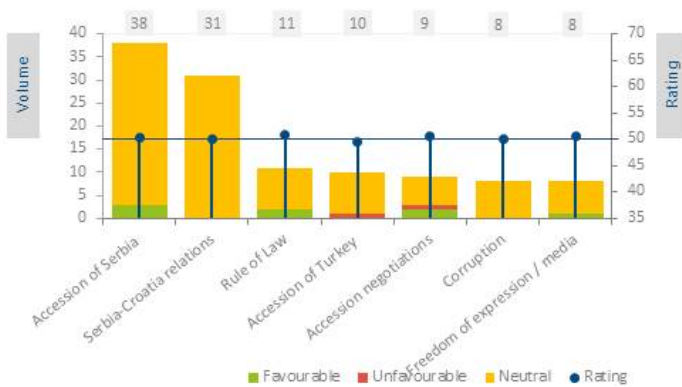
Serbian position on Russia

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić paid an official visit to Austria last week to discuss the two countries' assumption of joint chairmanship of the OSCE in 2017. However, during the press conference following the meetings, Vučić, returned to a familiar topic by underlining that although EU integration tops Serbia's foreign policy agenda, the country also desires to foster friendly relations with Russia (Balkans.com, UK, 4/2).

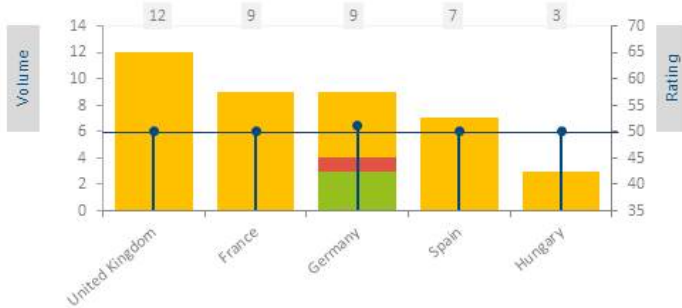
- Balkans.com, UK, 4/2, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=200933>

Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	51 items
Rating	50.3
Favourable %	7.8%
Unfavourable %	2.0%
Neutral %	90.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Zoran Milanović - PM Croatia	15
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	13
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	10
Ivo Josipović - Croatia President	10
Fethullah Gulen - US based Turkish cleric	8
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	4
Ivica Dačić - FM Serbia	4

Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.