



Key Quotes

Croatia's first female president has been sworn in. Sunday's ceremony was attended by hundreds of Croatians and top local officials as well as presidents of several regional nations and, notably, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić. His presence hinted at an easing of tensions between the former foes. **"We talked about all our issues... we will resolve them,"** Vucic told reporters after meeting the new president. (Yahoo!, UK, 15/2)

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/croatias-first-female-president-sworn-183457024.html#KPIAWs0>

Summary

Hungarian Foreign Minister says Montenegro is closest to EU accession.

Peter Szijjártó says that Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic integration is key to stability in the Western Balkans so therefore Hungary is committed to support the country's integration efforts. He emphasized that among the Western Balkan countries, Montenegro is closest to EU and NATO accession. For Hungary's stability in the Western Balkans is especially important in the current global, political and economic climate and destabilization could be fatal. He added that the European Commission should speed up the negotiations. (Hirado.hu, HU, 13/2).

- Hirado.hu, HU, 13/2, <http://www.hirado.hu/2015/02/13/szijjarto-a-nyugat-balkanon-montenegro-all-a-legkozelebb-az-eu-csatlakozashoz/>

Czech fears about Kosovo migration

A wave of Kosovo Albanians from Hungarian refugee camps is now rolling across the Czech Republic, which they entered illegally in an effort to reach West Europe, mainly Germany. More and more of the desperate Kosovars who left their homeland over high unemployment and poverty have been heading for the Czech Republic via Slovakia. The south Moravian foreign police detained 41 of them in the first week of February alone which is more than in the four weeks of December 2014. Almost 200 Kosovars have been detained in south Moravia so far, including over 100 since January 1, 2015. The illegal migrants are most often young people and families that poverty has driven out of their homeland (praguemonitor.com, CZ, 12/2). Berlin said on February 12th that it was sending 20 police officers to the border between Hungary and Serbia to help control a surge in the number of asylum seekers heading into the European Union and ultimately to Germany (EurActiv.com, BE, 13/2).

- praguemonitor.com, CZ, 12/2, <http://praguemonitor.com/2015/02/12/wave-kosovo-refugees-crosses-czechrep-westwards>
- EurActiv.com, BE, 13/2, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/german-police-sent-serbia-hungary-border-stem-kosovo-exodus-312095>

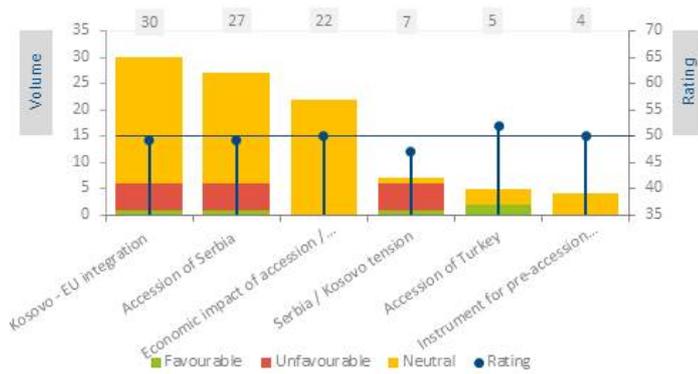
Postponement of joint parliamentary meeting

Turkish Hurriyet Daily News (12.02.15) reports that a planned joint parliamentary meeting between Turkish and EU representatives was postponed for a month due to the lawmakers' busy agenda, the Turkish co-chair of the joint commission said after a European lawmaker accused Ankara of delaying the event in order to avoid criticism. The day before, one of the European Parliament's Turkey rapporteurs, German Christian Democrat party member Renate Sommer, said the delay request from the Turkish side was incomprehensible behaviour. In a statement Sommer suggested that the Turkish government backed away from the meeting because it feared possible reactions from European parliamentarians particularly over the issues of press freedom and the ongoing Cyprus tension (Hellenic Resources Network, CY, 12/3).

- Hellenic Resources Network, CY, 12/3, <http://www.hri.org/news/cyprus/tcpr/2015/15-02-12.tcpr.html#10>

Charts

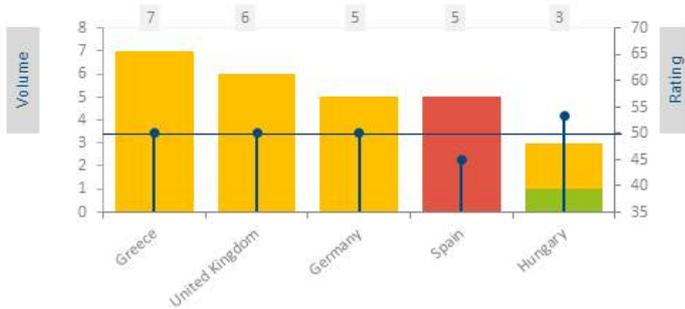
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Skender Hyseni - Kosovo Interior Minister	13
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	6
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	3

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