



Key Quotes

Kosovo marks Independence Day amid doom and gloom. Hashim Thaci, Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, said: ***"We cannot forget what was done in 1999, nor can the Balkans be fully stable until Serbia formally recognizes the independence of Kosovo. But with the historic Brussels Agreement, Serbia agreed to normalize relations by recognizing the reality on the ground and the absolute authority of the Kosovo government and constitution in the entire territory of Kosovo."*** (novinite.com, BG, 17/2)

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/166604/Kosovo%26%20Marks%26%20Independence%26%20Day%26%20Amid%26%20Doom%26%20and%26%20Gloom>

Summary

A sad anniversary

Kosovo is celebrating on Tuesday the seventh anniversary of the proclamation of its independence from Serbia in a situation that is still critical from a political and economic standpoint, and with corruption and crime rates still high (ansamed.info, IT, 17/2). Jubilant throngs gathered around gigantic letters spelling "NEWBORN" when Kosovo declared independence from Serbia seven years ago. Today, there's a new national symbol - the bus stop, where hundreds of people gather every day to flee a country they've given up on. High hopes have turned to despair and tens of thousands of people, including at least 5,000 schoolchildren, have already fled on the nightly bus journey through Serbia and into the European Union. The mass movement of people is a sign of simmering discontent with the governing elites in Europe's youngest, poorest and most isolated country. The departures, coupled with violent January protests, threaten to export Kosovo's economic and social troubles beyond its borders. (Daily Mail, UK, 17/2).

- ansamed.info, IT, 17/2, http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2015/02/17/kosovo-seven-years-of-independence-more-shadow-than-light_6a29e29c-2b24-4ce6-8dc2-b765b68e9c11.html
- Daily Mail, UK, 17/2, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2956732/Kosovos-joy-despair-anniversary-independence.html>

Praise for Serbian Premier

Commissioner for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations, Johannes Hahn welcomed Serbian Prime Minister, Aleksandar Vučić's presence at the Croatian president's inauguration; Hahn told the reporters in Brussels that Serbian PM Vučić's attendance at the Croatian president Kolinda Grabar Kitarović's inauguration was valued in the EC. He also expressed hope for Serbian accession negotiations later this year. There are those who believe that the international community's pressure had contributed to Mr Vučić's visit. In Brussels they like to call such pressure "friendly suggestions" Jutarnji list (HR, 17/2) reported.

- Jutarnji list, HR, 17/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150217/mi/item_235597039.pdf

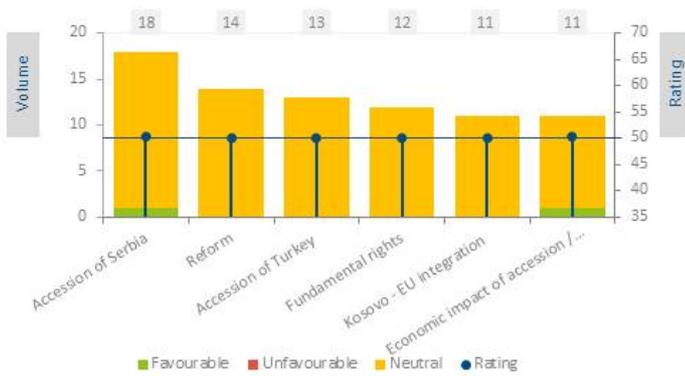
Request for international mediation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mediation by the international community is required to resolve the current political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, is what Stevo Pendarovski from the opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) has claimed. The events in parliament on December 24th 2013 were tiny in comparison with the undemocratic practices of the current government, about which we have yet to present our evidence. If the earlier crisis had to be resolved with the help of mediation by the then EU Commissioner, Štefan Füle, I see no way of solving this one without the mediation of the international community, Pendarovski said adding that there was clear evidence of fraud during the 2011 elections (focus-news.net, BG, 17/3).

- focus-news.net, BG, 17/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/02/17/363465/mkd-macedonia-once-published-records-for-the-crimes-of-the-government-will-be-needed-an-international-mediator-to-resolve-the-crisis.html>

Charts

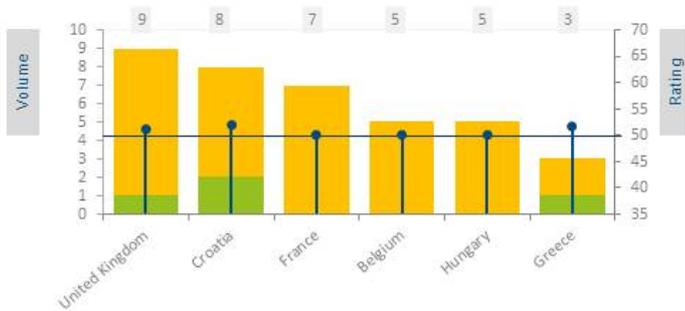
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	11
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	8
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	7
Vesna Pusić - FM Croatia	7
Ditmir Bushati - Albania Foreign Affairs	7
Bujar Nishani - President Albania	6
Edi Rama - Albania PM	5

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