



## Key Quotes

Belgian FM praises Albania's steps for EU integration. According to the Albanian Daily News, Reynders praised **Albania's role in the region and assured his Albanian counterpart on the continued support of Belgium to the EU integration process of Albania**. With Prime Minister Edi Rama, Reynders discussed Albania's European prospective. Rama assured him that **Albania is determined to meet all the conditions required in order to join the EU** ([neurope.eu](http://www.neurope.eu), BE, 19/2)  
<http://www.neurope.eu/article/belgian-fm-praises-albanias-steps-eu-integration>

## Summary

### Former UK Premier to advise Vučić

Tony Blair is being paid to advise the Serbian government, it has emerged, despite being one of the leading proponents in NATO's bombing campaigns against Belgrade during the Kosovo War. Under a deal believed to be funded by the United Arab Emirates, Blair will counsel Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić, who was minister of information at the time of the 1999 bombing campaign. Vučić was once an outspoken critic of the British politician, however, now Vučić and Blair appear to be business partners, under a contract sealed by Blair's private consultancy to set up a "delivery unit" Serbian sources reported. Delivery units are about helping governments to reform sectors such as health, education, crime, the rule of law, the economy and infrastructure, according to Tony Blair Associates (Daily Telegraph, UK, 19/2).

- Daily Telegraph, UK, 19/2, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/tony-blair/11421856/Tony-Blair-to-advise-Serbian-government-16-years-after-bombing-Belgrade.html>

### Press freedom in Serbia

Within few days the European Union's Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, has given two different statements concerning media freedom in Serbia. In the last one on Wednesday, Hahn said that media freedom "*remains a key issue in the accession process towards the EU*" and that "*this policy has not been changed*". Commissioner Hahn sent this message via his spokeswoman Maja Kocijančič in order to clear controversies that have appeared after his previous statement which suggested that evidence needs to be presented to show that media freedom in Serbia is in danger. Maja Kocijančič stated in her media release "*The Commissioner believes that media freedom is an issue of critical importance and that it should not be negotiated*". The first reaction was that of Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić who has praised Hahn for his "evidence" claim. He said "*I am grateful to Hahn because he has demonstrated that the truth is more important to him despite being under fierce media pressure*" adding "*he has proved he is an honest person*" (balkaneu.com, GR, 19/3).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 19/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/hahns-strange-claims-media-freedom-serbia/>

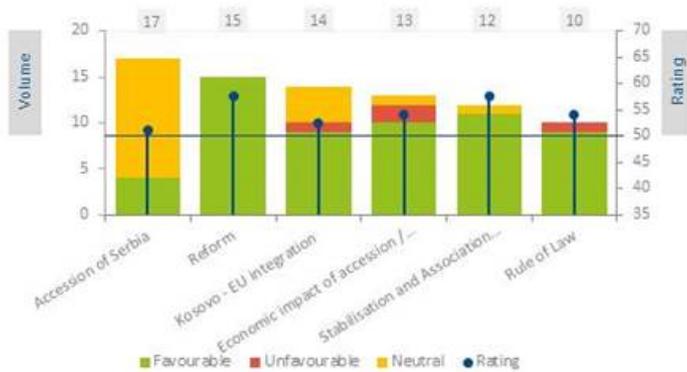
### Operation coup

The EU observes the tense situation in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with concern, which is also demonstrated by the visit of the European Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn (Delo, SI, 19/2). It has called on all parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to solve the problems that emerged after the latest events and the special police coup operation. Johannes Hahn has said "*We call upon all political parties to solve this problem. Those that have evidence should present it and leave the legal institutions to cope with the issue*". He says it is a serious issue and his recommendation is to get at the truth and for the investigation to be carried out by the competent institutions and people (focus-news.net, BG, 19/2).

- Delo, SI, 19/2, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150219/mi/item\\_235920359.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150219/mi/item_235920359.pdf)
- focus-news.net, BG, 19/2, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/02/19/363664/vecer-macedonia-coup-operation-should-be-investigated-within-legal-institutions-says-eu-commissioner.html>

# Charts

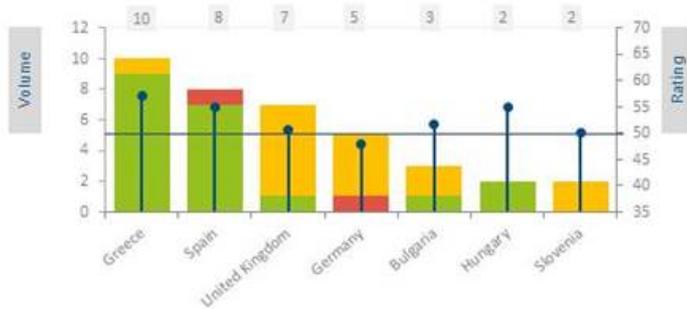
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by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	39 items
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Favourable %	53.9%
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Neutral %	41%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**  
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	16
Federica Mogherini - High Representative	13
Aleksandar Vučić - Prime Minister Serbia	9
Isa Mustafa - Prime Minister Kosovo	9
Tony Blair - former UK Prime Minister	7

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