



Key Quotes

In response to the declaration adopted by Bosnia and Herzegovina's parliament, stating the political willingness of the country representatives to comply with EU criteria for member accession. Mladen Ivanić, chairman of the country's presidency said that **"We must not play around with this declaration on the European path like we used to do before, but Brussels must also not endanger this atmosphere with its bureaucratic approach,"** ([novinite.com](http://www.novinite.com), BG, 24/2).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/166776/Bosnia+on+the+Road+to+EU+Accession>

Summary

EC President Jean-Claude Juncker cancels visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia due to the situation in the country

EC President Jean-Claude Juncker has cancelled his scheduled visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to meet with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. On 17 February Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn visited the country and expressed concerns afterwards concerning the current situation and asked domestic politicians to launch constructive dialogue. More specifically, Mr Hahn was concerned by the "spy scandal" which has been causing turmoil in the country (Poslovni Dnevnik, HR, 24/2). President Juncker's deputy spokesperson, Mina Andreeva, said that because of the evolving situation on the ground, there was an agreement that it is not an opportune time to hold a meeting (EurActiv.com, BE, 24/2). Norbert Mappes-Niediek wrote in the Berliner Zeitung (DE, 24/2) noting that it becomes increasingly clear that the ruling party has high influence on the judicial system and the freedom of the press, which has alarmed German politicians.

- Poslovni Dnevnik, HR, 24/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150224/mi/item_236603147.pdf
- Berliner Zeitung, DE, 24/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150224/mi/item_236580286.pdf
- EurActiv.com, BE, 24/2, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/enlargement/juncker-cancels-meeting-macedonian-pm-over-tensions-312362>

Deportation of Kosovars begins

Kosovar citizens are now going to be transported back to Kosovo from the European Union, according to the information from Radio Free Europe. Approximately 80 Kosovar immigrants will be transported back by airplane to the capital, Pristina. These Kosovar citizens will not be allowed to participate in the 'reintegration programme' of the Kosovar government as only immigrants who left Kosovo before 28 July 2010 are allowed to participate (Magyar Hirlap, HU, 24/2). Balkan citizens regard possible integration in the EU as a chance for prosperity and act according to the dictum "If the EU comes, we will stay. If it does not, we will go towards it" (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 24/2).

- Magyar Hirlap, HU, 24/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150224/mi/item_236576877.pdf
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 24/2, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150224/mi/item_236580298.pdf

Views on EU membership

According to a recent Euro barometer survey of the end of 2014 only 28 percent of Turks saw EU membership as a good thing. Albanians are the strongest advocates for accession to the EU, where 76 per cent of the population view EU membership positively and only four percent negatively. Respondents in Montenegro, Serbia, Iceland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are in the majority for EU membership. The latter are the most positive - 53 percent to 16 percent negative. In Montenegro the ratio is 37:26, 39:21 in Serbia and in Iceland 37:26 (Salzburger Nachrichten, AT, 23/2).

- Salzburger Nachrichten, AT, 23/2, <http://www.salzburg.com/nachrichten/welt/politik/sn/artikel/tuerken-wenden-sich-immer-staerker-von-eu-ab-139335/>

Charts

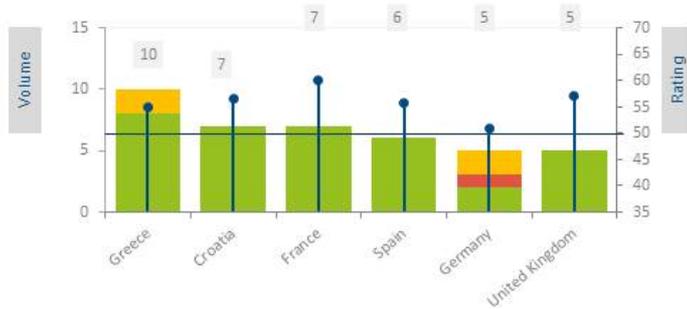
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
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by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	59 items
Rating	55.4
Favourable %	79.7%
Unfavourable %	1.7%
Neutral %	18.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	52
Nikola Gruevski – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - PM	12
Zoran Zaev - Opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10
Jean-Claude Juncker – President EC	5
Mina Andreeva - Deputy Chief Spokesperson European Commission	3
Nikola Poposki - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - European Affairs	2