



## Key Quotes

The European Commission has called for measures against asylum abuse of migrants from the Balkans. **"Asylum abuse by citizens of the visa-free countries in the Western Balkans remains a considerable concern for the EU,"** the EU executive said ([vienna.at](http://www.vienna.at), AT, 25/2).

<http://www.vienna.at/eu-fordert-massnahmen-gegen-asyl-missbrauch-vom-balkan/apa-1422522726>

## Summary

### The European Parliament rejects most amendments that would condition Serbian accession negotiations

Croatian MEPs were disappointed by proposals to condition the opening of Serbian chapters. MEP Andrej Plenković, vice chair of the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs, vowed yesterday to write to the Commissioner for Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn and issue a complaint regarding the performance of EC officials. *"The EC does not understand"* Mr Plenković said. Taking a contrary view, MEP Ivan Jakovčić believes that some MEPs were acting "clumsily" at the EP meeting on Serbia. He is convinced that a compromise will be found, as one candidate country cannot be blocked this way. MEP Dubravka Šuica said that it was time for Croatian MEPs to no longer be treated as second-rate MEPs (Jutarnji List, HR, 25/2). The Commission could in the future analyse the disputed Serbian law as demanded by MEP Andrej Plenković (Vecernji List, HR, 25/2).

- Jutarnji List, HR, 25/2, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150225/mi/item\\_236754886.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150225/mi/item_236754886.pdf)
- Vecernji List, HR, 25/2) [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150225/mi/item\\_236768105.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150225/mi/item_236768105.pdf)

### Swedish support for Albania

Sweden will continue to fully support Albania in its European agenda, Swedish Parliament Speaker Urban Ahlin said during the joint press conference with Albanian Speaker Ilir Meta, following their meeting. Ahlin noted the progress made during the last 20 years and said Albania had made great strides to get to where it is while he reassured the country that it will have the support of Sweden in its progress adding that Sweden is very pleased that Albania plays a constructive role in the Balkan region. Sweden is also very interested in further expansion of the EU and will continue to push for this, Ahlin said (Balkans.com, UK, 25/2). In Albania, MPs have voted for the appointment of a committee for the decriminalisation of the Parliament that they're part of. The start of the process follows a resolution ratified in parliament in December following a request by the opposition. Now, the opposition and majority are forced to work together with the assistance of the European Union (balkaneu.com, GR, 25/2).

- Balkans.com, UK, 25/2, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=201443>
- balkaneu.com, GR, 25/2, <http://www.balkaneu.com/decriminalization-albanian-parliament-kicks-off-mps-punish-themselves/>

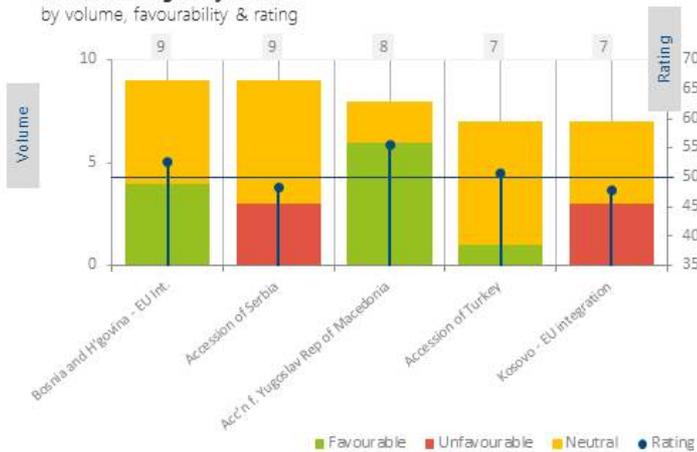
### Criticism of Turkey in Hungary

Hungary's left-wing opposition voiced sharp criticism at the government's foreign policy concerning a visit by the Turkish prime minister to Budapest. Socialist politician, Attila Mesterházy, urged the government to find a new direction for its foreign policy and that Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó be dismissed. Speaking at a press conference, he also voiced hope that Hungary would not make an attempt to copy Turkey's "problematic" ways of government (hungarytoday.hu, HU, 25/2).

- hungarytoday.hu, HU, 25/2, <http://hungarytoday.hu/cikk/left-wing-opposition-turkey-example-follow-73543>

# Charts

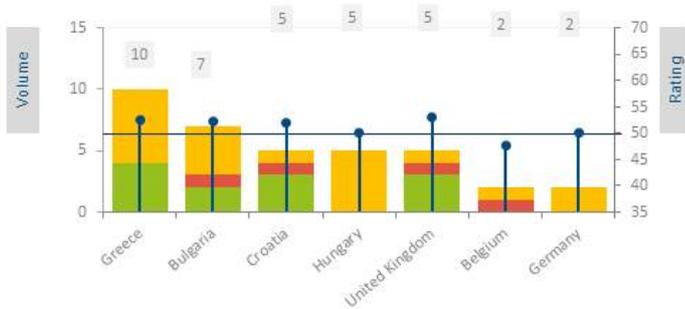
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	37 items
Rating	51.5
Favourable %	32.4%
Unfavourable %	13.5%
Neutral %	54.1%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	9
Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM	5
Nikola Gruevski - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia PM	4
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	4
Dubravka Suica – Croatian politician	4
Zoran Zaev - Opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

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