



Key Quotes

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias told his former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia counterpart Nikola Poposki that Greece stands by its position on the long-standing name dispute with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With regard to the prospect of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's accession to the European Union and NATO, Mr. Kotzias also stated that **the decision will be made based on criteria and processes that are in place for all candidate countries, and that the decision taken will be collective.** (protothema.gr, GR, 7/3)

<http://en.protothema.gr/greek-fyrom-meeting-on-name-dispute/>

Summary

EU allegedly put pressure on Kosovo politicians

Kosovo newspaper Koha ditore claims to possess e-mails that prove the EU was trying to influence the formation of a new government using the EULEX mission in Kosovo. This allegedly occurred, when Hashim Thaçi who was the victor in the recent elections was prevented from taking power due to the formation of a coalition against his party. Federica Mogherini's spokeswoman Maja Kocijančič, said that the EU would not interfere politically or with judicial processes in Kosovo. One unnamed EU diplomat says that EU credibility has been seriously damaged and hopes what occurred will be clarified soon. This new scandal comes at a very bad time, when EULEX mission in Kosovo is already facing several other charges (Jutarnji List, HR, 6/3).

- Jutarnji List, HR, 6/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150306/mi/item_238139718.pdf

Bosnia and Herzegovina should guarantee equal rights to all nations

For the first time in seven years, Bosnia and Herzegovina's bid to join the European Union has received a boost. Later this month, member states' foreign ministers are expected to approve a recommendation by Federica Mogherini, the EU's foreign policy chief, that a pre-accession Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) signed in 2008 should take effect. But just as in 2008, the momentum is of the EU's own making, and just as in 2008, it might fizzle out. Back then, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the SAA, but the deal never took effect since the country has been in continual violation of a 2009 judgement of the European Court of Human Rights (Balkans.com, UK, 6/3). MEP, Tonino Picula, in an amendment to the initial text of the resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the European Parliament seeks to mention that Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be a successful candidate for EU membership while not providing adequate institutional conditions for the establishment of full equality for all citizens (Jutarnji List, HR, 6/3).

- Balkans.com, UK, 6/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=201679>
- Jutarnji List, HR, 6/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150306/mi/item_238153470.pdf

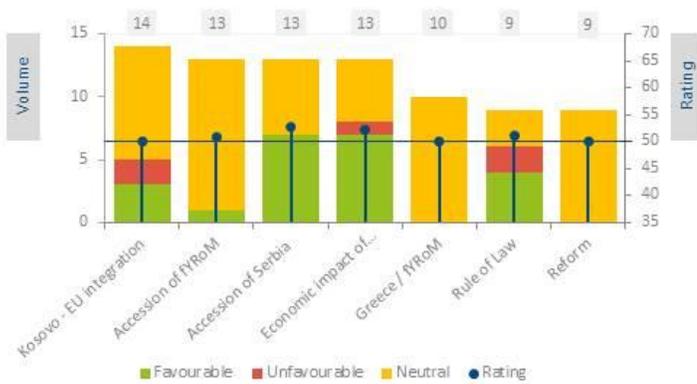
Commission support lessens for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

A snooping scandal threatens to undermine even the European Commission's support for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. For the past month, Zoran Zaev, leader of the opposition Social Democrats, has been leaking tapes of alleged conversations gathered for Nikola Gruevski, the prime minister, and his spy chief, who happens to be his cousin. In one tape, the interior minister tells the finance minister that she has talked to the chief prosecutor about dismissing criminal charges against him. The main media outlets toe the government line, and are used to smear opposition politicians (Economist, UK, 6/2).

- Economist, UK, 6/2, <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21645848-if-you-speak-big-shot-macedonia-you-may-be-recorded-getting-it-tape>

Charts

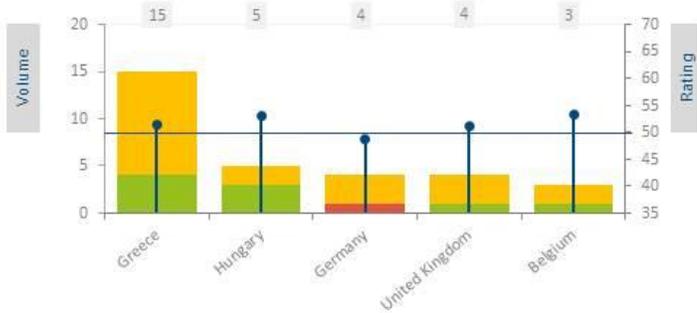
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Alexis Tsipras - Greek Prime Minister	8
Gjorge Ivanov . President former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8
Aleksandar Vučić - Prime Minister Serbia	7
Dimitris Avramopoulos - Migration & Home Affairs	5
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	3
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	3
Frank-Walter Steinmeier - FM Germany	3
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3

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