



Key Quotes

Kosovo: "**Serbia should recognize our independence**". Serbia is aware that it will have to recognize Kosovo's independence before joining the European Union, says Kosovo's minister without portfolio Edita Tahiri. "**The EU has bound Serbia by law to a normalization of good-neighbourly relations with Kosovo and that condition is reflected in Chapter 35 of Serbia's accession process**," Tahiri said. (real.gr, GR, 9/3)

<http://www.real.gr/DefaultArthro.aspx?page=arthro&id=398842&catID=4>

Summary

Riga Conference

At an informal weekend meeting of EU foreign ministers in Riga, Hungary's foreign minister called for accelerated EU enlargement and advances in Eastern Partnership. Péter Szijjártó noted that the foreign ministers of the candidate countries were also attending the meeting focusing on EU enlargement. He said that the EU should speed up the integration of the countries of the Western Balkans and cooperate more closely with Turkey, which aspires to become one of the world's ten strongest economies. He added that progress should also be made in the Eastern Partnership programme since gas supplied by Azerbaijan could solve central Europe's energy security problem. "*The crisis in Ukraine illustrates the importance of redesigning and advancing the partnership scheme, with specific programmes designed for the six countries involved rather than under a general heading*" he said and adding "*closer EU ties will enhance their stability*" (politics.hu, HU, 9/3).

- politics.hu, HU, 9/3, <http://www.politics.hu/20150309/szijarto-urges-speeding-up-eu-enlargement-and-eastern-partnership/>

International Women's Day

An opinion piece from a researcher at the *Istanbul based think-tank, the Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies*, notes that thousands of protesters in Turkey, women and men alike, have played their part in changing the perception of women's rights and freedom. Using social media as a tool, people have started to combat violence against women. This level of protest shows that women in Turkey are not safe even though the country is in the process of becoming a part of the European Union. The article notes that the EU process encouraged the Balkan Countries to strengthen judicial reform, judicial cooperation and fundamental rights and the process promoted equality between human beings and the efficiency of justice systems in all state bodies. The first step towards solving female injustices in the region came from the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace and Security and Justice in South East Europe. It can be argued that women's participation in decision-making at government level would be productive for the integration process of the Balkans (Balkans.com, UK, 9/3).

- Balkans.com, UK, 9/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=201719>

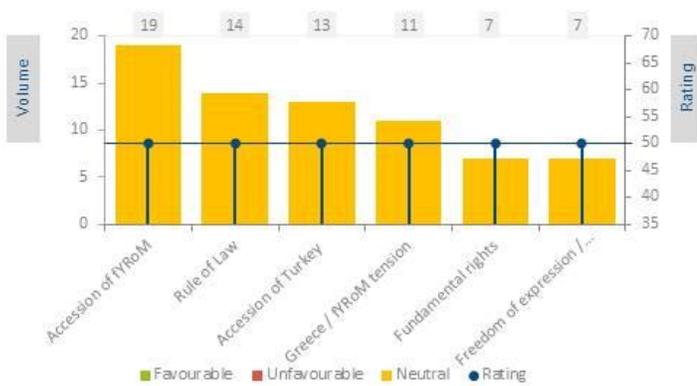
Name dispute

The Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki met with his Greek counterpart, Nikos Kotzias, in Riga. Dnevnik daily reports that the two expressed absolutely opposite positions on the name issue but agreed that there was mistrust on political level. Poposki remarked "*The lack of trust on political level is real. For us, it is based on decades of obstructions, violated agreements and blockades. For them, it is a result of the negative campaign that creates mythological fear. Nowadays, they are hostages of the past*" (focus-news.net, BG, 9/3).

- focus-news.net, BG, 9/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/09/365517/dnevnik-macedonia-greece-creates-mythological-fear-with-it-negative-campaign-says-poposki.html>

Charts

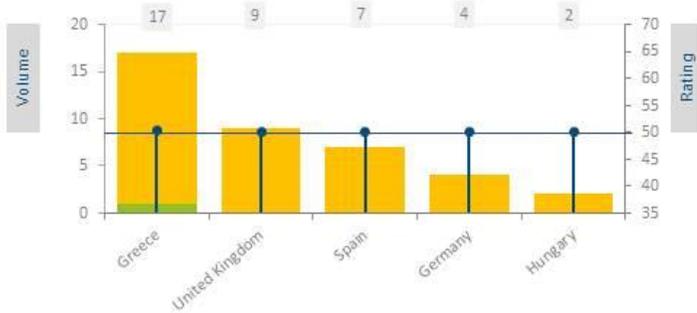
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by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	42 items
Rating	50.1
Favourable %	2.4%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	97.6%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Poposki - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia European Affairs	10
Nikos Kotzias - FM Greece	10
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4
Viktor Orban - Prime Minister Hungary	2
Péter Sziijártó - FM Hungary	2

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