



Key Quotes

The European Commission received the request of the prosecutor's office in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for international monitoring of the "**Coup**" case and will soon make a decision whether to form an expert team of lawyers to monitor the prosecutors' work. "***I am glad the institutions requested international monitoring and we back that as there is evidence and they will make a decision on their own,***" PM Nikola Gruevski said. EC spokesperson Maja Kocijancic said Brussels had received the invitation of the public prosecutor of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for observers to be dispatched over the "**Coup**" case (focus-fen.net, BG, 18/3).

<http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/18/366589/vecer-macedonia-brussels-to-dispatch-monitoring-team-over-coup-case-mediator-between-ruling-opposition.html>

Summary

A warning from Albania

A strategic re-engagement from the EU would be the single best impulse toward democratizing processes and a guarantee of the safe political and economic perspective of the Balkan region. Otherwise, there may be a void which can only be filled by third parties who, through political and economic incentives, may kill the interest and determination of the countries of the region to proceed with the European project, said Ditmir Bushati, Albania's Foreign Minister. He went on to say that thanks to the support of the European Parliament the West Balkans have known important and positive developments. However, sustainable security and democratic stability in the region must not be taken for granted (balkaneu.com, GR, 17/3).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 17/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ibna-op-edno-reduced-price-ticked-eu/>

EU gives green light for implementation of agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Stabilisation and Association agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina includes commitments to respect of the Copenhagen criteria on democracy, rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. Following last year's protests the EU also insists that socio-economic reforms, outlined in a compact for growth and jobs adopted last year, are implemented to reduce poverty and inequalities (europa-nu.nl, NL, 17/3). During the session, the head of Slovenian diplomacy Karl Erjavec expressed his support for implementing the agreement as soon as possible. Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić assessed that the agreement could enter into force in the spring (Vecer, SI, 17/3). When asked if the recently-adopted declaration of the Croat People's Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina was compatible with the EU's new approach towards Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pusić said it was not. "*Anyone who wishes well to the Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina knows that the European path is what can ensure progress for that country. This path will be taken by the EU and by Bosnia and Herzegovina*" Pusić said (Vecernji List, HR, 17/3).

- europa-nu.nl, NL, 17/3, <http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vjsads8nm5xi/nieuws/eu-to-implement-bosnia-association-pact?ctx=vim2bqcr62p7&s0e=vifdkm1d06kk>
- Vecer, SI, 17/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150317/mi/item_239714959.pdf
- Vecernji List, HR, 17/3, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150317/mi/item_239727986.pdf

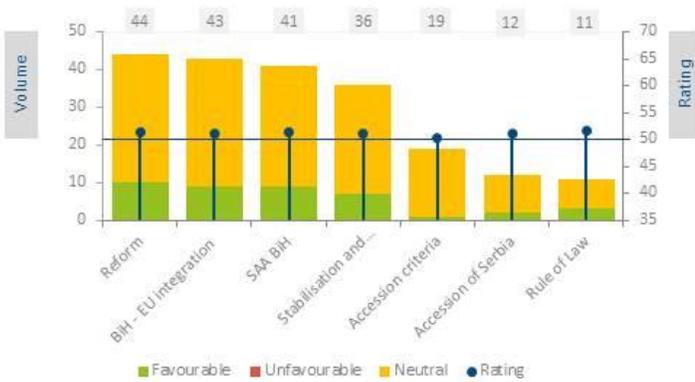
Criticism for Montenegro

With its adoption of a robust resolution on Montenegro earlier this month, the European parliament has become the latest EU institution to voice its serious concern over the Balkan country's complacency on its eventual accession. Parliament's resolution is a damning indictment of the Montenegrin government's sclerotic pace of reform, clear recalcitrance and utter irresponsibility. The resolution has highlighted the Montenegrin government's contempt not just for EU rules, but also for the rulings of EU member state courts (theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 16/3).

- theparliamentmagazine.eu, BE, 16/3, https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/partner_article/pm-meps-voice-serious-concern-over-montenegro-eu-accession

Charts

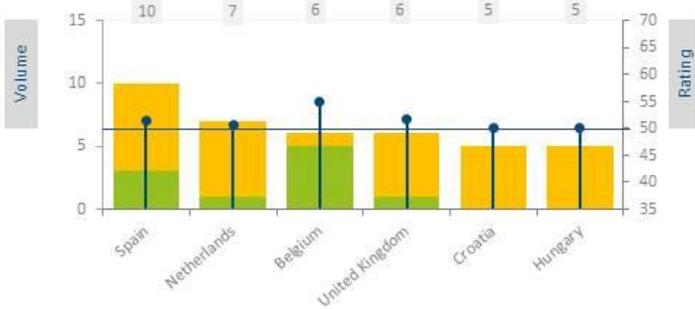
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



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

Volume	53 items
Rating	51.4
Favourable %	22.6%
Unfavourable %	%
Neutral %	77.4%

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



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Federica Mogherini	20
Vesna Pusić, Croatia FM	5
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3
Nikola Gruevski - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia PM	2
Philip Hammond - UK FM	2
Frank-Walter Steinmeier - Germany FM	2

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