

## Key Quotes

Zoran Zaev, Leader of opposition party Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), in an exclusive interview for FOCUS News Agency: **"The situation in Macedonia has been nothing but a lie over the past few years. We do not need lies, we need honesty. This process will help the country's European integration. The way the opposition is doing things sends a message that such things will never happen again. This means that we will be a normal country. The very solution to the political crisis will lead to having freedom and democracy, EU values, which are important for all citizens."** (focus-news, BG, 19/3) <http://www.focus-fen.net/opinion/2015/03/19/3934/macedonian-opposition-leader-macedonian-intelligence-services-wiretapped-more-than-20000-people-in-macedonia-including-the-whole-opposition.html>

## Summary

### Loans for Serbia

The European Investment Bank has signed two loans totalling EUR 80 million in Serbia with Société Générale Bank Serbia (SGRS) and Sogelease Serbia (SLRS) in support of small and medium-sized enterprises, midcaps and infrastructure schemes promoted by local authorities. The loans are designed to assist Serbia in its efforts to integrate into the European Union (EU). *"With these two credit lines we reaffirm the EU bank's commitment to support projects in Serbia with the objective of helping the country on its path towards EU accession and rapid integration into the Union. The loans will improve the access of Serbian SMEs and mid-cap companies to long-term financing provided on favourable terms"* said Dario Scannapieco, the EIB Vice-President responsible for the Western Balkans (Balkans.com, UK, 18/3).

- Balkans.com, UK, 18/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=202044>

### Opening secret service files in Albania

The Albanian parliament has opened the debate about the *"Right of Information about Documents of former Secret Services"*. The new bill is based on German expertise and experience, considered as the best available for dealing with these sorts of files. The government says that it has no problem in resolutely confronting the issue and Prime Minister Edi Rama says the process can no longer be postponed and promises that the government and majority that he leads will approve this incentive in spite of voices expressing scepticism (balkaneu.com, GR, 18/3).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 18/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/confrontation-helps-consolidation-freedom/>

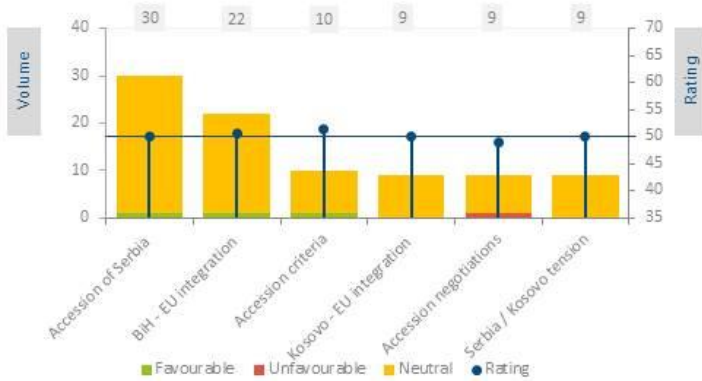
### Mediation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Deputy PM for European integration in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Fatmir Besimi has been visiting Brussels, where he has held meetings with the new secretary general of the European External Action Services, Alain Le Roy and other EU officials. He commented that *"The EU is carefully following the events in Skopje and what is happening is not helping European integration. This situation is also having a great impact in the development of the country and is affecting human rights. As far as political dialogue and a constructive political environment is concerned, EU officials say that this must happen and that sides must start dialogue"*. Besimi has also unveiled Brussels' proposals for mediation in the process of negotiations between the two largest parties VMRO-DPMNE and Macedonian Social Democratic Union. He said *"Europe has offered its help by offering the involvement of the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Johannes Hahn in the process of political dialogue and in finding a solution. A proposal has been made for three MEPs, Eduard Kukan, Richard Howitt and Ivo Vajgl to be involved in the process of dialogue between the two parliamentary groupings"* (balkaneu.com, GR, 18/3).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 18/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/eu-urgently-demands-political-dialogue-fyroms-deputy-pm/>

# Charts

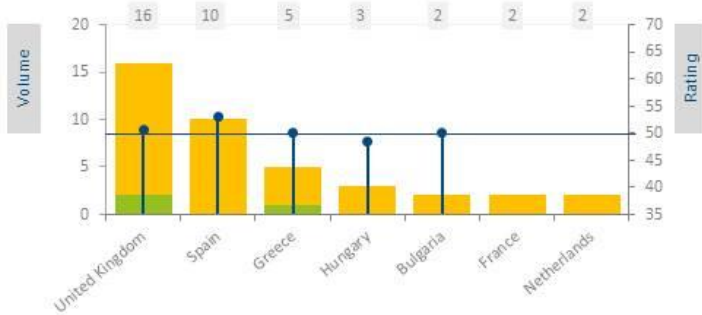
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	3
László Varga - Hungarian politician	3
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2

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