



Key Quotes

Albania's willingness to push ahead with reforms will determine its future steps to gain entry to the EU, the bloc's Enlargement Commissioner said on Tuesday. **"Success will depend on Albania's resolve to continue with reforms in an inclusive way and make them irreversible,"** Hahn told reporters at a news conference with Prime Minister Edi Rama. **"It is important that Albania pursues a comprehensive, inclusive and consistent justice reform process which is essential to increase public trust in the judiciary,"** he said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 24/3).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/24/uk-eu-albania-idUKKBN0MK2BE20150324>

Summary

Joint projects for Serbia and Albania

Serbia and Albania will propose to EU officials joint priority projects that can be funded from the EU funds meant for the Western Balkans. This was announced by Serbia's State Secretary for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Dejan Trifunović, on Sunday. The two sides have agreed on which priority projects will be proposed and they are two roads and four railway infrastructure projects. This will put into practice the agreement between Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić and his counterpart from Albania, Edi Rama. Trifunović announced and the two sides' working groups have already met four times since January (Balkans.com, UK, 24/3).

- Balkans.com, UK, 24/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=202146>

Seminar at the European Parliament for political parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's ruling and opposition parties had a dress rehearsal of the dialogue that is expected, through the mediation of Brussels, to begin to solve the political crisis there online news edition Utrinski Vesnik reports. Representatives of ruling VMRO-DPMNE and opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia attended a seminar at the European Parliament in Brussels. VMRO-DPMNE's Antonio Milososki, SDSM's Radmila Sekerinska and Lidija Dimova, Talat Dzaferi of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), Imer Aliu of the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA), Ljubomir Josifovski of the New Social Democratic Party, and independent MP Ljubica Buralieva took part in the seminar. According to the European Parliament this event is not included in the framework of mediation, which is yet to start and is still being prepared (focus-news.net, BG, 24/3). The affair has triggered warnings from the European Union, which has been weighing the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's membership bid for more than a decade (Balkans.com, UK, 24/3).

- focus-news.net, BG, 24/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/24/367247/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-ep-still-preparing-to-mediate-between-macedonias-ruling-opposition.html>
- Balkans.com, UK, 24/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=202161>

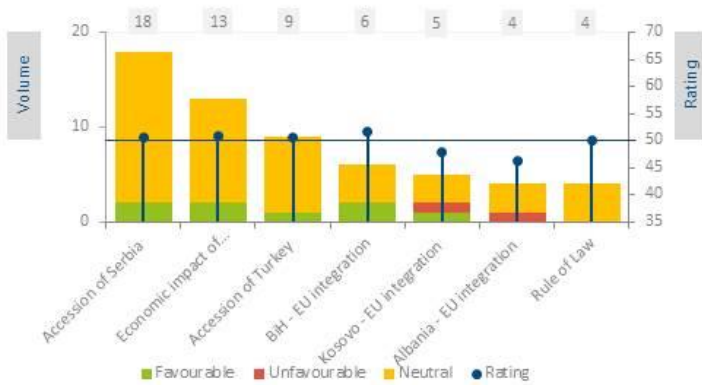
Balkan expansion

Croatian member of the European Parliament Ivan Jakovčić said on Monday he was confident that Balkan countries had no alternative but to become part of the European Union, noting that the pace of their integration into the EU depended primarily on themselves and much less on the European Commission and the European Parliament. Jakovčić was speaking following his recent visit to Montenegro, Albania and Serbia. He said that the European Parliament had spoken very favourably of the entry of these countries, as well as of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Kosovo was put on a back burner. He emphasised the need for the countries concerned to reform their justice systems and media sectors and highlighted the importance of cooperation in infrastructure (Dalje.com, HR, 23/3).

- Dalje.com, HR, 23/3, <http://dalje.com/en-croatia/croatian-mep--balkan-countries-must-become-part-of-eu/540068>

Charts

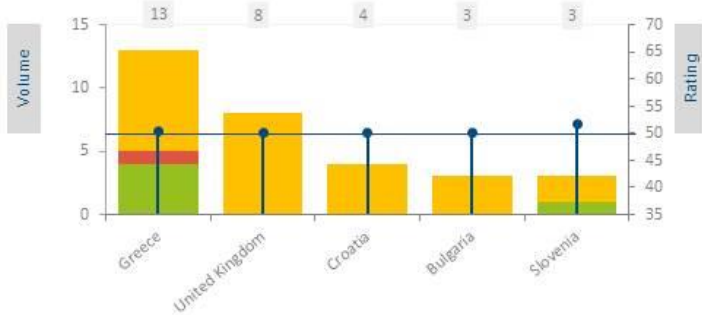
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Borut Pahor - President Slovenia	3

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