



## Key Quotes

EU offers 1 billion euros for Balkan infrastructure projects. Johannes Hahn, EU commissioner in charge of enlargement, said the bloc planned to give 1 billion euros for infrastructure projects to be finished by 2030, he said. **"The European Union is not only at your disposal at your side but we are really committed to these kinds of investments because it connects the Western Balkans with the European Union,"** he said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 25/3).

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/25/kosovo-balkans-eu-idUKL6N0WR3H520150325>

## Summary

### Report on Turkey after Easter

The discussion and vote at the European Parliament AFET on the report on Turkey is being postponed until after Easter after the representatives of political groups failed to come to an agreement on the compromise amendments to the report, and will have to meet again next week. In relation to Cyprus, Cypriot MEPs are attempting to include references on missing persons, Turkish violations in the Cyprus EEZ and the implementation of the Ankara Protocol, which were not included in the report. Calls for the withdrawal of Turkish troops and the return of Famagusta have already been included (Phileleftheros, CY, 25/3). However despite irregularities in the Turkish Cypriot EEZ, the EU is insisting on positive reports about Ankara (Haravgi, CY, 25/3).

- Phileleftheros, CY, 2, 25/3, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150325/mi/item\\_240932320.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150325/mi/item_240932320.pdf)
- Haravgi, CY, 25/3, [Link not available]

### No recognition for Kosovo

The new Greek government will not alter the country's stance on Kosovo's independence, Serbian online news edition Blic reported. *"The new government will stick to the hitherto existing position and will not recognise the self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo"* said Konstantinos Oikonomidis, the Greek Ambassador to Belgrade. He noted that Greece is one of five EU member states which have not recognised Kosovo's independence and, he said, Athens will stick to this stance (focus-news.net, BG, 25/3).

- focus-news.net, BG, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/25/367385/blic-serbia-greeces-new-govt-not-to-recognise-kosovos-independence.html>

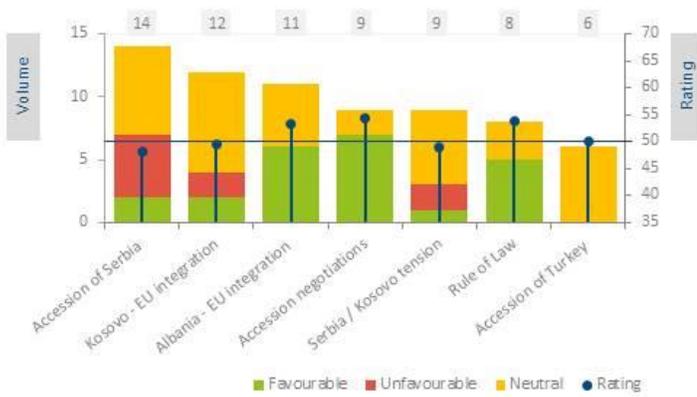
### Balkans Conference in Pristina

The "Western Balkan 6" conference has started in Pristina with the participation of all Western Balkan countries and senior officials of the European Union. During this summit the countries of the region are expected to agree on several infrastructure projects. These documents will be made official by the EU, which will finance the infrastructure projects. The Foreign Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, commented that *"For Kosovo, equal participation in this conference is a strong signal that the stability of the Balkans and no integration of the Balkans into the EU can be imagined without Kosovo"*. Deputy Foreign Minister Petrit Selimi. *"It's a historic conference because we will agree on a Balkan transport network in which the EU will invest adding what's also important is that the Serb Foreign minister, Ivica Dačić comes as a Foreign minister in an official diplomatic capacity. The conference, like the one last year in Belgrade, is being held according to the Gymnich formula recommended by the EU"*. The list of countries participating in the "Western Balkans 6" is bringing to Pristina, 12 foreign ministers and 6 transport ministers of the Balkan countries and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Johannes Hahn (balkaneu.com, GR, 25/3).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 25/3, <http://www.balkaneu.com/western-balkans-6-summit-kicks-off-kosovo-epicenter-regional-cooperation/>

# Charts

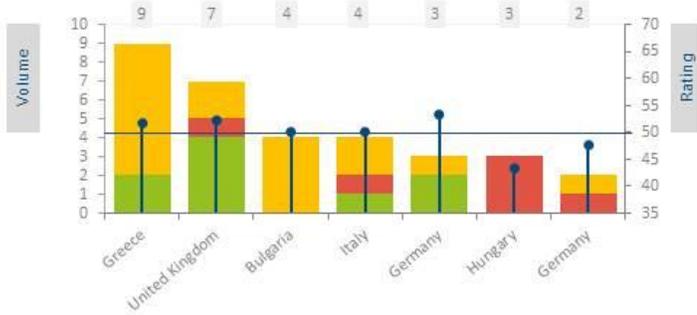
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama - Albania PM	8
Isa Mustafa - Prime Minister of Kosovo	6
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	5
Vojislav Seselj - Serbian politician	5
Nikola Gruevski - FYROM PM	4
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4

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