



Key Quotes

The leaders of Serbia and its former southern province Kosovo have spoken by phone in the first direct talks without foreign mediators since a 1998-99 war, both countries said on Thursday. **"Just the fact that there is a direct contact without necessarily the facilitation of Brussels is a new result of the dialogue itself,"** Federica Mogherini, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said in Pristina (dailymail.co.uk, UK, 26/3).

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3013148/Just-phone-call-away-Serbia-Kosovo-forego-foreign-mediators.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

"The European Union cannot afford to say no to Turkey. The consequences would be negative for Europe, certainly not for us," European Union Affairs Minister and Chief Negotiator to Turkey Volkan Bozkir said. According to Bozkir, currently **"there is to be gains on both sides, but these gains are not eternal" and if the EU were to say 'no', "Ankara certainly will not look elsewhere. Because it does not need to find alternatives"**. Bozkir reiterated Turkey's position at a time when European Union enlargement negotiations are in a total stalemate, saying that the history of Turkey's adhesion to European treaties **"is a long history. Turkey has been trying for 50 years"** and has been **"patient and tolerant"** (ansamed.info, IT, 26/3).

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2015/03/26/turchiaministro-affari-ue-pazienza-non-eterna_63222733-f3e0-4b95-b10d-b2a81fb7ed2a.html

Summary

Serbia and the future of the Balkans

Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić stated in Pristina that Serbia is ready to intensify reforms which are already yielding concrete results and to work on closer cooperation in the region and with the countries of the EU in order to achieve sustainable economic growth. Speaking at a conference on the Western Balkans *"Improving connectivity and a strong core network"* in Pristina, Dačić said that it is undeniable that in the region of the Western Balkans, after much turbulence, vital progress has been achieved in terms of building peace and democracy both in the field of regional cooperation and European integration. The vision of EU membership has been the main driving force of a series of reforms and positive development in the region. *"Sincere cooperation is the basis of stability in the region and the Republic of Serbia will be there as a reliable partner"* he said (Balkans.com, UK, 26/3).

- Balkans.com, UK, 26/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=20226>

Future of negotiations for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

"Summit accession dialogue between Macedonia and the EU has not been suspended. The negotiations are underway, as well as the reforms in all fields it covers" the Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki, said. Asked whether there was any likelihood of a recommendation from the European Commission for the launching of negotiations, Minister Poposki replied: *"Of course there is. Macedonia will not officially kick off accession negotiations unless all 28 member states agree. One of these member states has clearly set its conditions"* and then he went on to say *"such dimming of the European future incites conflicts"* (Focus news, BG, 26/3). The European Union has not responded to the request of the prosecutor of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, General Marko Zvrlevski to send foreign experts to the country to monitor the lawsuits connected with illegal wiretapping (Focus news, BG, 26/3).

- Focus news, BG, 26/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/26/367470/vecer-macedonia-eu-summit-talks-never-suspended-says-minister.html>
- Focus news, BG, 26/3, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/26/367480/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-eu-silent-about-prosecutions-request.html>

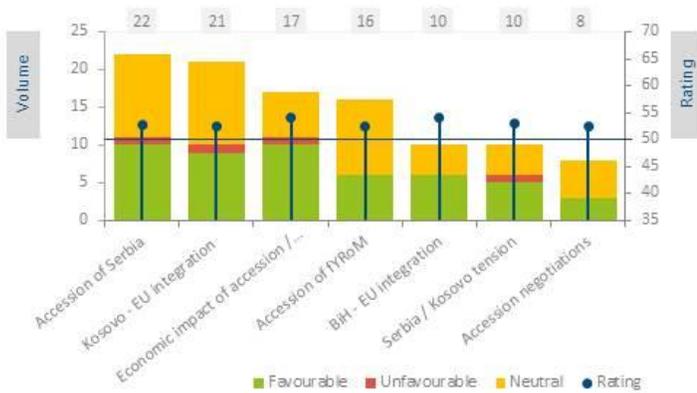
Migrants from Kosovo

Valmir spent three days wading through rivers, crawling through undergrowth and evading border guards before he reached Germany. So when the 20-year old Kosovar-Albanian finally made it on to a local train bound for Berlin, he thought a new life in the West was within reach. But Valmir had not reckoned with two plain-clothes German police officers who boarded the train. He and his fellow travellers were swiftly apprehended and brought to a detention facility. There he says his application for asylum was rejected after a five-minute interview and authorities set about deporting him (ft.com, UK, 25/3).

- ft.com, UK, 25/3, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/4a5b7426-d2cf-11e4-a792-00144feab7de.html#axzz3VUL6QsGp>

Charts

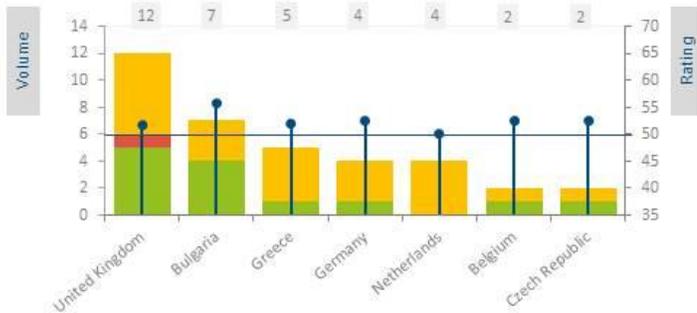
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	9
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	6
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	5
Zoran Zaev - Opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4
Ivo Vajgl - MEP	3

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