8th APRIL 2015 (WEDNESDAY)



DG NEAR – 8th APRIL 2015 Media Evaluation Summary Report

Key Quotes

The unification of Albania and Serbia's majority-Albanian former province of Kosovo is "inevitable", whether it happens through membership of the European Union or not, Albania's prime minister said on Tuesday. "The unification of the Albanians of Albania and Kosovo ... is inevitable and unquestionable," Rama said in an interview late on Monday with the Kosovo broadcaster Klan Kosova. "The question is how it will happen. Will it happen in the context of the EU as a natural process and understood by all, or will it happen as a reaction to EU blindness or laziness." (uk.reuters.com, UK, 7/4) http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/07/uk-albania-kosovo-unification-idUKKBNOMY19320150407

Summary

Twitter complies with Turkish request

Twitter has complied with Turkey's request to remove photographs of a prosecutor held at gunpoint by far-left militants, an official said on Monday, and a ban on it ended hours after being imposed. YouTube, which authorities also banned, remained blocked late on Monday as talks with it continued. Mehmet Selim Kiraz, the Istanbul prosecutor seen in the pictures, was later killed in a shoot-out between his hostage takers and police last week. "Twitter has agreed to shut down accounts and remove images relating to last week's hostage-taking. The website will reopen to access very shortly" the senior official told Reuters before the site became accessible again (France24.com, FR, 7/4). In a new departure, late on Monday, the country also threatened to ban Google. The moves follow a court ruling on Friday against 166 internet addresses that published images of the prosecutor. The Turkish authorities said the images promoted terrorism and, in blocking access on Monday, an Istanbul judge said the content endangered public order (ft.com, UK, 7/4).

- France24.com, FR, 7/4, http://www.france24.com/en/20150407-turkey-lifts-twitter-ban-after-prosecutor-photos-removed-youtube-facebook-kiraz/
- ft.com, UK, 7/4, http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/12ef52aa-dc52-11e4-a6f7-00144feab7de.html#axzz3WaqY1SHu

Serbia and its neighbours

Serbia's President Tomislav Nikolić has accused Croatia of putting pressure on the Serb minority and said it is time the two countries openly discussed Croatia's treatment of the ethnic Serbs. Speaking at a reception for young Serbs from Croatia in Belgrade on Monday, Nikolić said he was not happy about the atmosphere in Croatia and that there were problems with people who remained shackled by the past. He noted that the EU was now responding mostly to statements coming from Croatia and not from Serbia (Dalje.com, HR, 7/4). Meanwhile Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić met yesterday with Slovakian President Andrej Kiska at the beginning of his visit to Slovakia, to discuss the two countries' relations, economic cooperation and the support of Slovakia to Serbia's EU path. Kiska emphasised that Slovakia has to do more in order to help chapters in Serbia's EU accession talks open sooner (Balkans.com, UK, 7/4).

- Dalje.com, HR, 7/4, http://dalje.com/en-world/serbian-president-accuses-croatia-of-putting-pressure-on-serb-minority/541141
- Balkans.com, UK, 7/4, http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=202577

Protests planned for Kosovo

Three opposition parties in Kosovo have decided to hold a protest against the government on 18th April because, according to them, the government has captured the state. The duration, the number of protesters and the course of the protest have not yet been discussed by the opposition but they say that the protest called by them has a list of demands which are addressed to the government (balkaneu.com, GR, 7/4).

balkaneu.com, GR, 7/4, http://www.balkaneu.com/opposition-kosovo-hold-protests-government/

Charts



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