



Key Quotes

German Minister Roth: **'EU expansion is also in our interest'**. If the western Balkan states were admitted to the EU, it would be beneficial to both sides, says Michael Roth, State Minister for Europe in the German foreign ministry, in an interview with DW. **"I want to encourage the western Balkan states that want to belong to the European Union. There is no question: The road ahead of us is surely rocky, but it is worth it. We are not just an economic community, but also, above all, a union of values,"** he says. (dw.de, DE, 8/4)

<http://www.dw.de/german-minister-roth-eu-expansion-is-also-in-our-interest/a-18369610>

The EU has reacted to Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama's statement about unification of Kosovo and Albania. **"We underline that the Western Balkans has a clear European perspective, determined by the EU at the highest level,"** said Maja Kocijancic. **"All partners in the region have confirmed commitment to this goal and determination to meet the necessary criteria, with full respect for the principles and standards of the EU,"** she continued, adding that **"all provocative statements in this framework are unacceptable."** (naftemporiki.gr, GR, 8/4)

<http://www.naftemporiki.gr/story/937011/antidrasi-ee-sta-peri-enosis-albanias-kosobou>

Summary

Serbia fails its Roma

Amnesty International says hundreds of Roma who were forcibly evicted from their Belgrade homes in 2012 have not been resettled despite Serbia receiving EU funds for the project. Amnesty said in a statement on April 8th that more than 100 families are living in squalid conditions even though city officials pledged to provide them with new apartments using a 3.6 million euro grant from the European Union. The resettlement was to be completed by February but that not one of the new housing blocks has been completed. The Roma had been living in the unofficial Belvil settlement in Belgrade when they were forcibly removed in 2012 and their ramshackle homes destroyed. Amnesty said only 10 of the 167 families slated to be resettled have been offered new housing, with many of the others living in shipping containers and being far removed from schools and employment opportunities. (rferl.org, CZ, 8/4)

- rferl.org, CZ, 8/4, <http://www.rferl.org/content/serbia-roma-housing-eu/26944367.html>

Iceland moves away from the EU to preserve its independence

Le Monde (FR, 08/04) writes about the difficult relations between Iceland and the EU, and reports that the EU has become a sensitive topic in Iceland since 12th March, when the country sent a letter to Brussels to express its willingness to stop the EU accession process. This decision embarrassed the European Commission, which however left the door open to the island. Thorolfur Matthiasson from the University of Iceland argues that the government's move *"is a way to satisfy the Eurosceptics without breaking with the EU"*. Iceland wants to maintain links with the EU while developing its ties with Greenland, Alaska, northern Canada, Scandinavia and Russia. The country does not want to be subject to fishing quotas and European fervour has somewhat cooled with the Greek crisis especially while it enjoys strong economic growth.

- Le Monde, FR, 8/4, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150408/mi/item_242895479.pdf

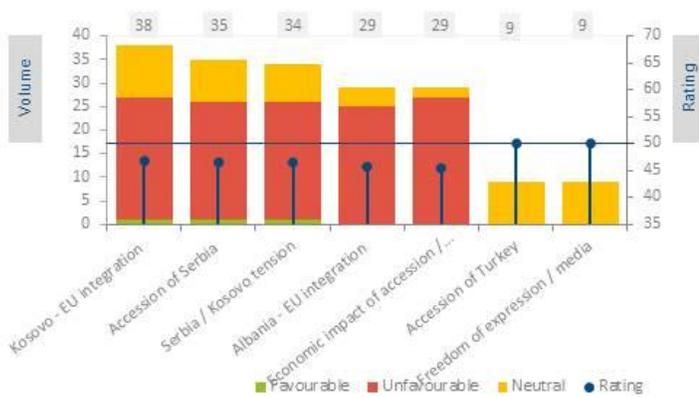
Name dispute

The foreign ministers of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece met recently in Budapest. The meeting was held on the fringes of the energy security meeting of the foreign ministers of Hungary, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey held in Budapest. The two discussed issues connected with energy and cross-border cooperation between the two countries, as well as issues of regional interest. In an official statement the Foreign Ministry of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia says that the Greek position on the name issue remains unchanged. Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias repeated the red lines set by Athens in terms of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's European-Atlantic integration (focus-news.net, BG, 8/4).

- focus-news.net, BG, 8/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/04/08/368929/vecer-macedonia-greek-position-on-name-issue-remains-unchanged.html>

Charts

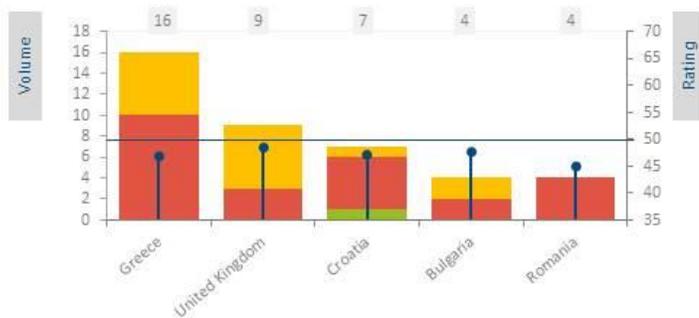
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Edi Rama - Albania PM	30
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	29
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	18
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	11
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	6
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	4

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