



Key Quotes

A French law professor criticised the European Union's handling of corruption allegations involving an EU mission in Kosovo. **"An investigation should have been opened at the outset. This would have prevented the issues that later arose in connection with the use of secret and special procedures, which fuelled suspicions of a cover-up that fortunately turned out to be unfounded,"** Jean-Paul Jacque wrote in his report. He also raised questions about the effectiveness of the EULEX mission, which has been extended until next year. **"The continued presence of EULEX is only feasible if comprehensive reforms are made to improve its effectiveness and thus its credibility. There is no point staying just to keep doing the same thing,"** he said. (uk.reuters.com, UK, 14/4)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/14/uk-kosovo-eu-corruption-idUKKBN0N526S20150414>

Summary

Future for the Bosnia and Herzegovina energy supplies

The European Union is the most important foreign trade partner of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which imported from the EU goods worth around 4.5 billion EUR, while it exported to the EU goods worth just 3 billion EUR. In comparison, Russia imported about 650 million EUR worth of goods, while Bosnia and Herzegovina exported goods worth approximately 25 million EUR. Such an imbalance is created mainly by the importation of gas. Diversity of supply is discouraged by the Republic of Srpska who obstruct the introduction of alternative sources of gas. They insist on the supply of Russian gas exclusively. There is a project of additional gas from Croatia which has been suspended. The Croatian side of the project has completed its part but in Bosnia and Herzegovina it remains under construction. The commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the EU is not in question. Questionable is the process, method and speed of accession. The dependence of EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Russian gas is set to last for some time and the EU will have to work intensively to find alternative routes for gas (Balkans.com, UK, 14/3).

- Balkans.com, UK, 14/3, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=202734>

Calmer period in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the Orthodox Easter calmed the political life in the country down and political leaders refrained from political declarations. But this week is expected to be full of political activity and the tense political situation between majority and opposition is expected to continue, and there will also be calls from the international community for political dialogue, which will continue in Brussels between the largest party in power VMRO-DPMNE and the opposition led by Macedonian Social Democratic League (SDSM). This meeting will mark the second round of negotiations in an effort to overcome the political crisis and is brokered by three MEPs, Eduard Kukan, Richard Howitt and Ivo Vajgl. However, there is pessimism in Skopje as to whether this format of talks can lead to a solution of the crisis (balkaneu.com, GR, 14/4).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 14/4, <http://www.balkaneu.com/expectations-solution-political-crisis/>

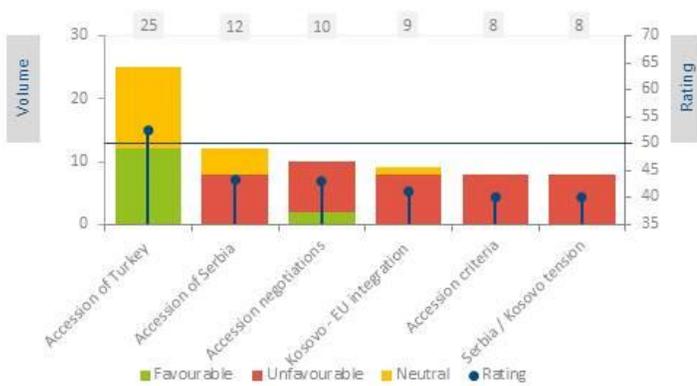
Enlargement and Albania

"Albania has been a candidate country for EU accession since June 2014. The Albanian enlargement process reinforces the country's path to prosperity and democracy as well as its contribution to regional stability and cooperation" commented rapporteur Knut Fleckenstein, calling on the EU High Representative and the EU Commission to maintain their 'commitment' towards Tirana. At the same time, however, the Albanian authorities have to be ready to put forward a *"constructive dialogue"* to achieve the best reforms in the process of rapprochement with the EU (ANSA, IT, 14/4).

- ANSA, IT, 14/4, http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2015/04/14/albania-pe-serve-dialogo-politico-per-integrazione-ue_bab1b5cb-4de4-4c26-88b0-a2053c285e5b.html

Charts

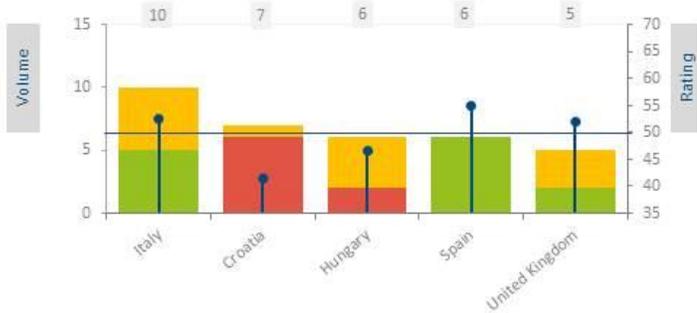
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by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Pope Francis	21
Maja Kocijancic (spokesperson for Catherine Ashton)	8
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	8
Eduard Kukan - MEP	7
Volkan Bozkır - Turkey EU Affairs Minister	5

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