



## Key Quotes

Minister Pusić cites new optimism after Friends of BiH working breakfast. *"The key topics of this informal meeting of EU foreign ministers were the financial package in combinations with the changes and reforms in BiH, coordination mechanism for pro-European reforms and intensified pace in light of the fact that tomorrow the SAA is to be activated,"* First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Integration Vesna Pusić said, adding that the EU member states, e.g. Great Britain, said they stood fully behind BiH's European path. She also cited Germany's support. *"The European perspective of BiH has been confirmed and I consider that to be very important, especially in today's climate of enlargement scepticism,"* Pusić said (mvep.hr, HR, 20/4) <http://www.mvep.hr/en/info-servis/press-releases/minister-pusic-cites-new-optimism-after-friends-of-bih-working-breakfast-23223.html>

## Summary

### Anniversary of the Kosovo Serbia agreement

It's been two years since the signing of the Agreement for the Normalization of Relations between Kosovo and Serbia. The text contains 15 points but the implementation of several points, such as Kosovo's country telephone code, integration of the energy system and billing of power supply in the north, is still being discussed. The agreement is still considered historical by the government of Kosovo and the protagonists that signed it. Two years after signing the document, the Foreign Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, says that in spite of the deadlocks, the undeniable success has brought long term benefits for Kosovo and the region and it has become a world example for solving problems with dialogue. Meanwhile, the deputy Foreign Minister of Kosovo, Petrit Selimi says that Belgrade is preventing the delivery of the main objectives of the agreement (balkaneu.com, GR, 20/4).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 20/4, <http://www.balkaneu.com/brussels-accord-historical-damaging-kosovo/>

### The Western Balkans are not in good shape

Two decades after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and sixteen years after the war in Kosovo, democracy, the rule of law, and press freedom have been slow to take root. This is despite the enormous amount of financial assistance that the European Union has disbursed throughout the region. It is also despite the promise that one day these countries would become EU members. The prospect of EU membership used to be the spur for reforms and the democratisation of these states' societies. Not anymore, it seems. If anything, press freedom is under attack, while corruption, an expanding informal or black economy and political instability are hampering investment, as a new study by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development shows. Combined, this concoction not only leads to growing unemployment and a disaffected younger generation, it also undermines the gains made over the years in trying to consolidate the difficult transition to democracy in this part of Europe (carnegieeurope.eu, BE, 20/4).

- carnegieeurope.eu, BE, 20/4, <http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/?fa=59830>

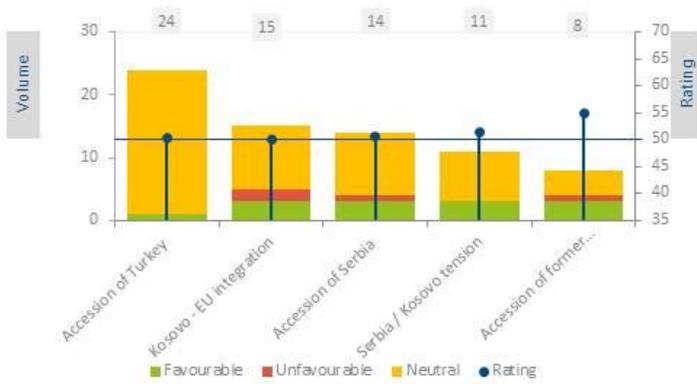
### EU at the mercy of euro-sceptics

The Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama sees integration as the only instrument of the modernisation of societies in the region but Mr. Rama is critical of the EU, which he sees as a hostage of electoral political tactics of its own member countries. He says that unfortunately, even in some influential countries, there's a fear that there may be vote losses and Euro scepticism grows if this great strategic project is discussed. He says that the answer to today's problems in Europe *"is more Europe and not less Europe"* (balkaneu.com, GR, 20/4).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 20/4, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ibna-analysisalbanian-pm-edi-rama-analyzes-process-eu-enlargement/>

# Charts

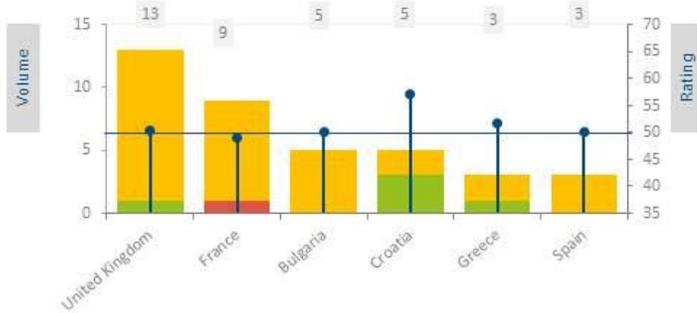
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
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Pope Francis	10
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	8
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	5

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