



Key Quotes

Wire-tap scandal threatens stability, democracy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The European Union, which the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia hopes to join, expressed "**grave concern**" on Tuesday over what it said was deterioration in the rule of law, fundamental rights and freedom of media (uk.reuters.com, UK, 22/4)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/22/macedonia-wiretapping-risks-idUKL5N0XI28R20150422>

"European Union would not set new preconditions for Serbia on its path towards the EU, but the reality is that there would not be new enlargements of the EU in the next four years," German MEP Doris Pack said. She added that EU has its share of responsibility for the relations between Serbia and Kosovo because five EU members still don't recognize Kosovo while EU officials have not put strong enough pressure on them to do it. **"We cannot keep pointing a finger to Serbia to change its constitution in order to recognize Kosovo when these five countries haven't to do it. If they are really interested in improving the relations of the two countries, why don't they do it (recognize Kosovo)? And why EU high representatives for foreign policy Catherine Ashton and Federica Mogherini did not put stronger pressure on these five countries to recognize Kosovo"**, Doris Pack continued ([slobodnadalmacija.hr](http://www.slobodnadalmacija.hr), HR, 22/4)

<http://www.slobodnadalmacija.hr/Svijet/tabid/67/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/283070/Default.aspx>

Summary

Thaçi dispute highlights bad feeling in Serbia relations with Kosovo

A dispute over the Kosovo Foreign Minister's visit to Belgrade has exposed bad feeling in Kosovo-Serb and EU-Serb relations. The Kosovo Foreign Minister, Hashim Thaçi, was recently invited by the Youth Education Committee, a Serb NGO, to visit the Serb capital for a seminar on EU integration. But the former Kosovar guerrilla chief cancelled the trip when Serbia said he'd be arrested on the basis of an old warrant. The warrant stems from his conviction in absentia for "*terrorism*" in 1997 when the late Serb dictator, Slobodan Milošević, was in power. Thaçi had already been arrested once, in Hungary in 2003, after Serbia red-flagged him in the database of Interpol. But Hungary released him following a brief detention. The new dispute comes amid EU-led attempts to "*normalise*" relations between the two sides. EU powers, such as Germany and the UK, have linked Serbia's compliance with the process to the EU's opening of the first chapters in accession talks later this year (euobserver.com, BE, 22/4).

- euobserver.com, BE, 22/4, <https://euobserver.com/foreign/128412>

Western Balkans Meeting

EU Commissioners Hahn and Bulc hosted a meeting of the six Prime Ministers from the Western Balkans. The meeting in Brussels built on the Western Balkan 6 ministerial meeting in Pristina on a core transport network for the region. The Brussels meeting confirmed the agreement of the core network through a joint statement and discussed concrete ways to help implement it. The statement said that improving connectivity within the region as well as with the EU would be a key factor for growth and jobs in the Western Balkans and it noted that improving regional cooperation and economic stability is a tool for matching European standards and fulfilling the EU accession criteria and therefore the process should bring clear benefits to citizens before accession (Balkans.com, UK, 22/4).

- Balkans.com, UK, 22/4, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=202969>

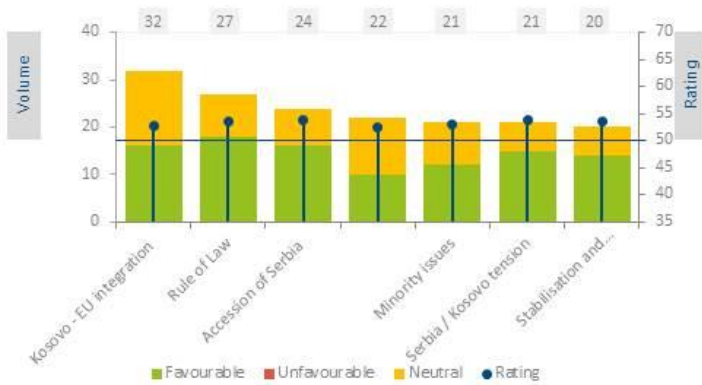
Normalisation meeting in Brussels

The meeting which took place in Brussels between the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa and the Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić under the auspices of the EU head of diplomacy, Federica Mogherini, ended without any new agreement. The EU head of diplomacy said in a statement that the meeting had discussed several pending issues between the two countries (balkaneu.com, GR, 22/4). Mogherini said the two sides had also discussed the progress in the implementation of agreements already reached, especially the agreement on the judiciary and agreement on civil protection (ansa.it, IT, 22/4).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 22/4, <http://www.balkaneu.com/fresh-talks-kosovo-serbia-agreement/>
- ansa.it, IT, 22/4, http://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2015/04/22/kosovo-ue-accordo-vucic-mustafa-su-prossimi-passi-concreti_8e86962c-7aea-4e5a-a128-3b0c71cf6574.html

Charts

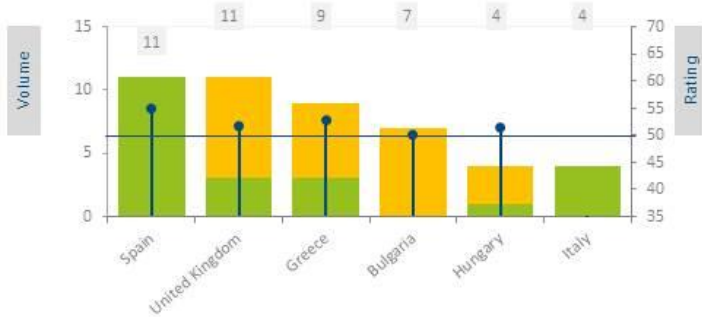
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	15
Federica Mogherini	13
Hashim Thaçi - FM Kosovo	11
Isa Mustafa - Prime Minister of Kosovo	10
Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	6
Rosen Plevneliev - President Bulgaria	6

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