



Key Quotes

Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn supported President Borut Pahor's call to make the EU's enlargement to the Western Balkans a political process rather than just a technical issue. Hahn pointed out that it was upon the EU candidate to decide how fast it wanted to join the EU and added that there were no **"speed limitations"** in the process to join the union

(sloveniatimes.com, SI, 23/4)

<http://www.sloveniatimes.com/commissioner-hahn-supports-political-enlargement-to-w-balkans>

Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev once again reaffirmed Bulgaria's support for the European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the countries of the Western Balkans. According to him, **"the main factor, which guaranteed the stability of the Western Balkans was the opening of the European perspective to all countries of the region"** (novinite.com, BG, 23/4)

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/168096/Bulgarian+President+Calls+on+Balkans+to+Guarantee+Stability+of+Investors>

Summary

Praise from EU and condemnation from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama received Brussels' support for the European integration of Albania and was praised as a *"constructive partner in the region"* while just a few days earlier the Prime Minister repeated his position, that the restructuring of the borders in the Balkans was inevitable and the unification of Albania and Kosovo was a clear project. Iskra Korovesovska, a journalist from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia writing in Dnevnik commented *"the Union kept silent about the issue and on top of that it even praised the politician. How should we interpret this silence while the Albanian prime minister is firmly talking about the restructuring of European borders"*. Dnevnik also cites a statement from the Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić, who said that if Vojislav Šešelj uttered just two words, then everyone would rise up in Brussels, though Šešelj is currently nobody in Serbia, while when a Prime Minister of a country talks about border changes everyone keeps silent (focus-news.net, BG, 23/4).

- focus-news.net, BG, 23/4, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/04/23/370206/dnevnik-macedonia-edi-rama-eyes-balkans-border-restructuring-while-brussels-hugs-him.html>

Juncker calls on Turkey to solve Cyprus problem

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker sent a letter of reply to the President of the Greek Cypriot Brotherhood in London, Antoni Yerolemou, stating that the EU calls on Turkey to continue to support the Cyprus talks. He noted that Turkey's commitment and contribution on specific terms to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem is crucial. President Juncker added that the status quo on the island is unacceptable and has lasted for an extremely long period of time with negative consequences for all Cypriots (Phileleftheros, CY, 23/4).

- Phileleftheros, CY, 23/4, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150423/mi/item_245268674.pdf

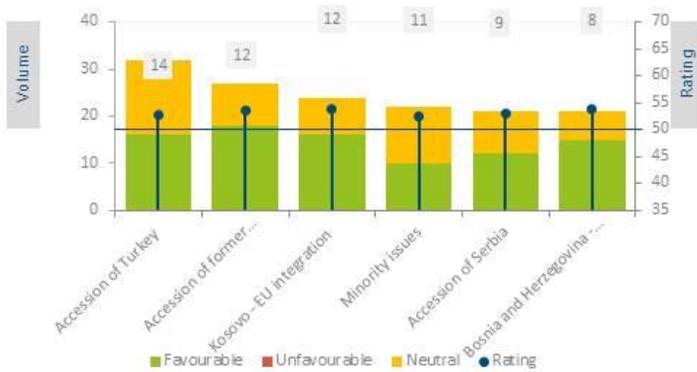
EU investing €1bn into Balkan region infrastructure

Prime Ministers of six Balkan countries have reached an agreement in Brussels regarding key road and railway projects in the Balkan region that would ultimately connect the entire territory. Commissioners Johannes Hahn promised that the EU will invest €130m by the end of the year. It is expected that other investors could contribute up to €10bn in additional funds. Concrete projects will be introduced within four months, among them a Serbian recommendation to renovate the Belgrade - Sarajevo and Belgrade - Bar railway routes (Poslovni Dnevnik, HR, 23/4).

- Poslovni Dnevnik, HR, 23/4, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150423/mi/item_245266570.pdf

Charts

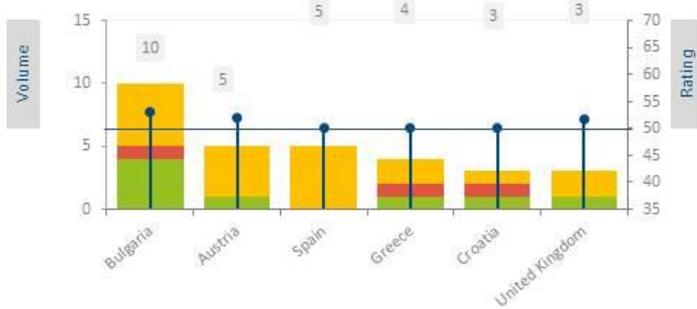
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Zoran Zaev - politician former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7
Nikola Gruevski – PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	5
Mladen Ivanić - Bosnian Serb politician	5
Rosen Plevneliev - President Bulgaria	5
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	5

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