



## Key Quotes

**"Germany will work on opening the chapters as soon as possible... No one in Europe has changed conditions for Serbia or introduced new ones, not even Germany,"** said German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. (novilist.hr, HR, 28/4)

<http://www.novilist.hr/Vijesti/Svijet/Steinmeier-Njemacka-za-sto-skorije-otvaranje-poglavlja-Srbije-s-EU>

## Summary

### Germany calls on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to act

Germany's Ambassador to Skopje has urged the Macedonian cabinet to make sure that accusations made by the opposition are followed by resignations. Christine Althaus, the top German envoy to the South Eastern European nation said during an event dedicated to EU integration and organized by the German non-profit Konrad Adenauer Foundation. She suggested EU governments have been "naïve" to think that state interests could be put before those of parties adding "Our Western belief that in the political dialogue the interests of the state should overcome party politics, it seems, is naïve with regard to the political culture here". She went on say she found "irritating" what she described as lack of "adequate" response on behalf of the government. Last week it was the US Ambassador to Skopje, Jess Baily, who called on authorities to resign, echoing a statement by UK envoy Charles Garrett who urged the creation of an interim government (Novinite.com, BG, 28/4).

- Novinite.com, BG, 28/4, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/168181/German+Ambassador+to+Macedonia+also+Calls+for+Gov't+Resignations>

### McAllister for a start of EU accession negotiations with Serbia

The Serbia-rapporteur of the European Parliament, David McAllister has promoted the opening of the first chapter of EU accession negotiations with Serbia later this year. "Serbia has made remarkable progress in recent years", he said adding "In particular, the economic and fiscal reforms the government of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić deserve recognition" (Die Welt, DE, 28/4). He said that EU accession negotiations with Serbia should be accelerated. When talking about asylum policy, McAllister demanded German recognition of Albania and Kosovo as risk-free countries of origin (Osnabruecker Zeitung online, DE, 28/4).

- Die Welt, DE, 28/4, [link not available]
- Osnabruecker Zeitung online, DE, 28/4, <http://www.noz.de/deutschland-welt/politik/artikel/569788/mcallister-eu-beitrittsverhandlung-mit-serbien-forcieren>

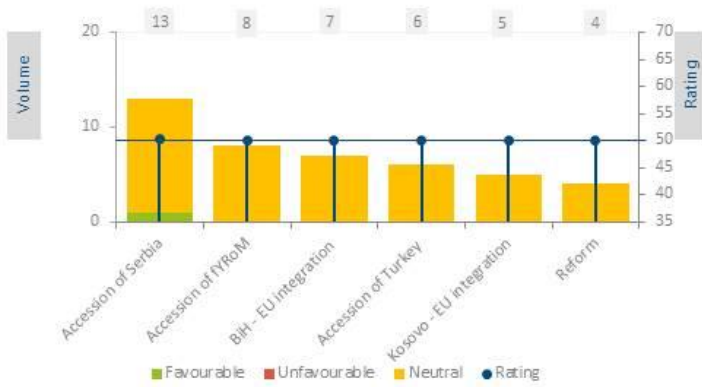
### Economic state of Albania

The Speaker of the Albanian Parliament says that the opposition is right when it says that the economic situation in the country is difficult, but he adds that the situation was not any better two years ago. Ilir Meta, who is also leader of the Socialist Movement for Integration, says that the general situation of Albanians is getting better, because, according to him, the most difficult part of the reforms have been undertaken and the fruits will start to show now. "We can see that Europe has great problems today, such as economic problems, financial problems and structural problems. I don't think that anybody would want to go to Greece today, because many who have been to Greece are coming back. The same thing can be said of Italy and other countries," he said (balkaneu.com, GR, 28/4).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 28/4, <http://www.balkaneu.com/parliamentary-speaker-comments-economic-situation-albania/>

# Charts

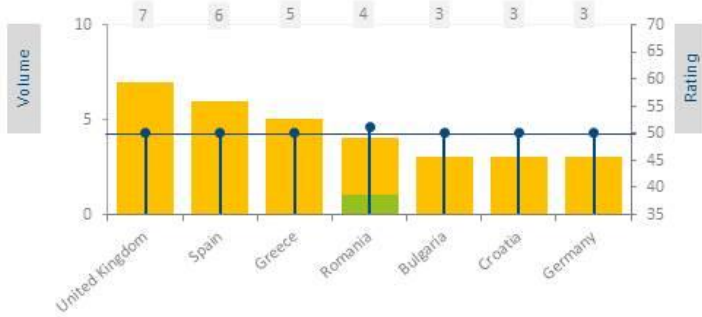
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by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	6
Gjorge Ivanov – President former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	5
Boyko Borisov - PM Bulgaria	4
Milorad Dodik - Bosnian Serb politician	4
Victor Ponta - PM Rmania	4

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