



## Key Quotes

President Tomislav Nikolić said he is not very optimistic after his talks with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, as he did not hear from him that the chapters in the negotiations with the EU will be opened this year. **"I am not very optimistic after the talks with the German Foreign Minister. Unfortunately, I cannot say that Mr. Steinmeier told me clearly that the chapters will open by the end of the year. True, he said he thinks conditions will be there for that during the year,"**

Nikolić said. (dnevnik.hr, HR, 29/4)

<http://dnevnik.hr/vijesti/svijet/nikolic-razocaran-razgovorima-sa-steinmeierom-pristina-ocekuje-mirovni-sporazum-2016---382931.html>

## Summary

### Radicalisation on the Balkans

Youth radicalisation in Western Balkan nations was overlooked for quite long time but as increasing numbers of young people join "Islamic State" as foreign soldiers the EU has started paying much more attention to it. Finding money for fighting against radicalisation is a clear proof of how seriously the EU perceives this problem. The Croatian role in this process is special not only because it shares a border with Bosnia, but also due to Croatian in-depth knowledge of the region. The International community that has been present in Bosnia for the past 20 years must bear its share of responsibility. European security experts warn that the Western Balkans is a transit and originating route for smuggling weapons towards Western Europe. The best news is, however, that all security bodies from the region have offered to cooperate in the fight against radicalism and terrorism, no matter their political differences (Jutarnji List, HR, 29/4).

- Jutarnji List, HR, 29/4, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150429/mi/item\\_246151609.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150429/mi/item_246151609.pdf)

### Opinion split over Russia

Daniel Friedrich Sturm writing in Die Welt, (DE, 29/4) reports from Belgrade on Frank-Walter Steinmeier's visit to Serbia to meet his counterpart, Ivica Dačić. The central topic of the visit was Mr Dačić's plea for the abolishing of sanctions against Russia. Mr Sturm calls Russian influence in Serbia "delicate" as Serbia took over the lead of the OSCE this year. In addition, the tense relationship between Serbia and Kosovo was discussed. Germany urges the continuation of a normalisation process between the two countries. Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said that "Serbia is talking to Kosovo and does not want to threaten anyone" and hopes that negotiation rounds with the EU will start in June.

- Die Welt, DE, 29/4, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150429/mi/item\\_246124937.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150429/mi/item_246124937.pdf)

### Freedom of the Press

Freedom House says restrictive new laws and violence against journalists resulted in a global decline of press freedom during 2014, bringing the world's press freedom to its lowest point in more than 10 years. In a report released on April 29, the U.S.-based watchdog said press freedom declined significantly in 18 countries and territories during 2014 -- with some of the worst declines in Azerbaijan, Serbia and Iraq. The government of Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić was criticized for trying to curb reporting about floods that hit the country and for "increasingly hostile rhetoric and harassment" of independent journalists. It said the worst in the Balkans was the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where press freedom has continued to decline during the past five years (rferl.org, CZ, 29/4).

- rferl.org, CZ, 29/4, <http://www.rferl.org/content/press-freedom-lowest-point-10-years/26984487.html>

# Charts

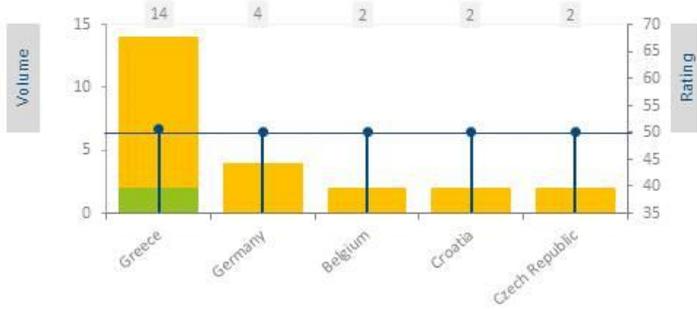
ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**  
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Highlights**  
by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	30 items
Rating	50.5
Favourable %	10%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	90%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**  
by volume, favourability & rating



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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Frank-Walter Steinmeier - FM Germany	17
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	15
Ivica Dačić - Serbian FM	12
Afitete Jahjaga - President Kosovo	11
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	9
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	3
Milorad Dodik - Bosnian Serb politician	2

Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

**Disclaimer: The access to this press report is restricted to European Commission staff. It should not be forwarded or circulated.**