



## Key Quotes

Maja Kocijancic, spokeswoman of the head of EU diplomacy, Federica Mogherini, declared that the European Union is closely following the recent developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including the last night's protests. ***"We are following the situation, and what happened last night worries us. We express our regret about several wounded protesters and police officers, but we underline the key importance of quiet protests and for citizens to express their demands. These are important values which are also based on European Conventions for Human Rights,"*** Kocijancic said (sofiaglobe.com, BG, 6/5). <http://sofiaglobe.com/2015/05/06/eu-worried-by-situation-in-macedonia/>

## Summary

### Protests escalate in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Violence and clashes between police and protesters were seen on Tuesday night in front of the government building in Skopje. The protest started as a quiet one around 6.30pm, a few hours after the leader of opposition published recorded materials of the head of the government relating to the concealment and manipulation of the murder of a young man four years ago by a member of the special forces and a member of security personnel of the Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski (balkaneu.com, GR, 6/5). At least 19 people were injured, including 15 police officers and a photographer. Police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse the protesters, who chanted "Murderers! Murderers!" and demanded the government's resignation. Government officials called the charges "absurd" and noted that a member of the prime minister's security detail was convicted of the murder and sentenced to 14 years in prison (rferl.org, CZ, 6/5).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 6/5, <http://www.balkaneu.com/protests-escalate-skopje-clashes-police-protesters/>
- rferl.org, CZ, 6/5, <http://www.rferl.org/content/macedonia-police-killing-protests-skopje/26997015.html>

### Conference on the Western Balkans opens in Brussels

A conference on regional cooperation in the Western Balkans, with the participation of foreign ministers from the region, representatives of the European Parliament and non-governmental organizations began today in Brussels. The forum will be opened by EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn and Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama. The purpose of the meeting is to define the progress of the Western Balkans in the process of internal reform and reconciliation of the legislation with the rules of the European Union (Radio Bulgaria, BG, 6/5).

- Radio Bulgaria, BG, 6/5, <http://bnr.bg/post/100553630/zap-bak>

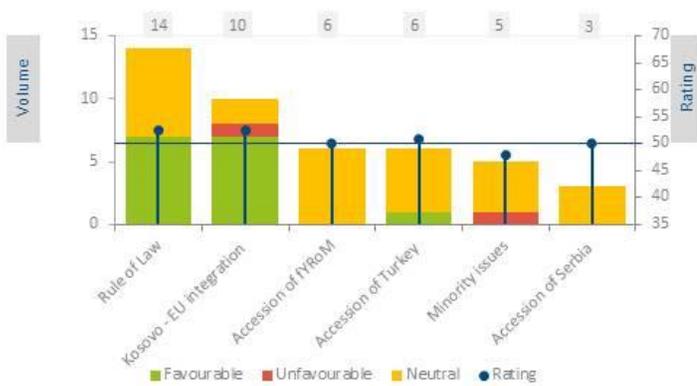
### Turkish constitutional changes

The pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party had said President Tayyip Erdoğan was acting against his constitutional neutrality as President by publicly praising the record of the AK Party while launching stinging attacks on its rivals. Turkey's electoral commission dismissed the complaint ahead of a June election. Erdoğan has said he wants the AK Party to raise the number of parliament seats it holds to 400 of 550 in June, comfortably giving it the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution and create the full presidential system he has long coveted (uk.reuters.com, UK, 6/5). Under Erdoğan, Turkey has been pursuing a peace process with the Kurdistan Workers Party to try to end a three-decade Kurdish insurgency in the southeast. Jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan said last month it was time to end an armed struggle that has killed 40,000 people, but his conditions, including creation of a neutral monitoring group, have not yet been met (Daily Mail, UK, 6/5).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 6/5, <http://www.newsrt.co.uk/news/turkish-electoral-body-rejects-kurdish-complaint-against-erdogan-3186289.html>
- Daily Mail, UK, 6/5, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3069894/Turkish-electoral-body-rejects-Kurdish-complaint-against-Erdogan.html>

# Charts

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



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

Volume	26 items
Rating	5.2
Favourable %	30.8%
Unfavourable %	3.8%
Neutral %	65.4%

ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**  
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	7
Maja Kocijancic - spokesperson EC	7
Nikola Gruevski - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia PM	6
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	5

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