



Key Quotes

The European Union underscored its support for an embattled Serbian rights official, under fire from the ruling conservatives who accuse him of harbouring political ambitions. It follows a warning from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Tuesday about a "**campaign of personal attacks**" against independent rights ombudsman Sasa Jankovic in some pro-government media, "**fuelled**" by remarks from senior state officials. Meanwhile, the EU's enlargement commissioner, Johannes Hahn, made a point of meeting Jankovic during a visit to Belgrade that focussed on the country's long bid to join the 28-nation bloc. Hahn tweeted: "**Stressed EU's full support for his important work + f respect of independent bodies.**" (uk.reuters.com, UK, 7/5)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/05/07/uk-serbia-rights-eu-idUKKBN0NS1IX20150507>

Summary

Greek Foreign Minister to bolster Balkan voice

The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikos Kotzias, announced that he will visit a number of Balkan countries in early in June, part of an active foreign policy. Mr Kotzias will be visiting Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and revealed that amongst his goals is to revive the trilateral partnership with fellow EU members Romania and Bulgaria. According to Mr. Kotzias, the partnership between Bulgaria, Romania and Greece will strengthen their voice within the European Union regarding the Western Balkans. He noted that the Western Balkans is "*a source of instability*" adding that "*instability gives birth to nationalism and nationalism can give birth to problems*". Mr. Kotzias said that Greece does not want to a part of the problem but rather to support its national interests (tovima.gr, GR, 7/5).

- tovima.gr, GR, 7/5, <http://www.tovima.gr/en/article/?aid=701622>

Turkey and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Turkey has won its customs union struggle with the European Union, which decided not to exclude Turkey from the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership it's about to conclude with the United States. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu announced the development in his address to the General Assembly of the Union of Chambers and Bourses of Turkey on May 2nd. Davutoğlu emphasized that henceforth there will be no infringement of Turkey's rights in future EU free trade agreements. Turkey was excluded from the TTIP negotiations that began between the United States and the EU in 2013 because it was not an EU member. The risk of being kept out of the planned accord that would provide economic integration with the world's largest free trade market of 800 million people brought Turkey to the verge of leaving the customs union (Balkans.com, UK, 7/5).

- Balkans.com, UK, 7/5, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=203389>

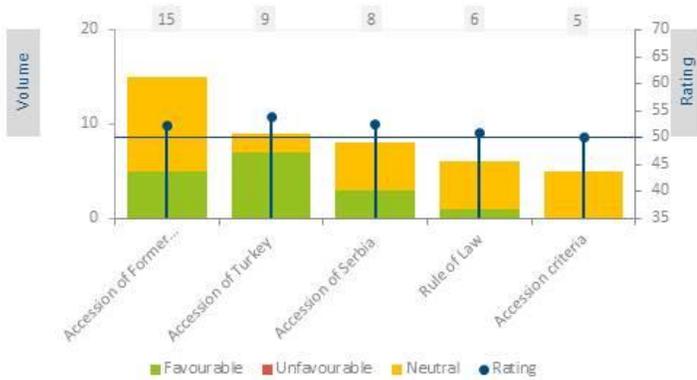
Turkey in the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism

On Wednesday Turkey yesterday signed an agreement in Brussels admitting it into the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Speaking during the European Civil Protection Forum at which the signing took place, EU Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Commissioner Christos Stylianides welcomed Turkey, noting that the EU is welcoming a powerful and experienced partner, with an important regional role, which may prove crucial in periods of emergency disasters (Alithia, CY, 7/5). However MEP Eleni Theocharous reports that new Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci is being manipulated by Turkey which is threatening to cut his funding if he does not comply with their requests and calling him to Ankara for "*instructions*".

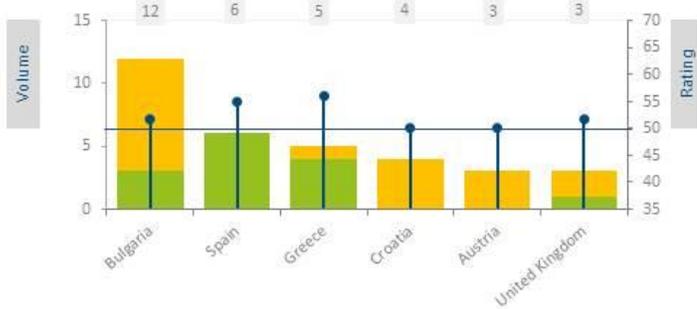
- Alithia, CY, 7/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150507/mi/item_247279546.pdf

Charts

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



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



Copyright © Ebiquty plc 2015

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

Volume	40 items
Rating	53.4
Favourable %	40%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	60%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8
Christos Stylianides - Aid & Crisis Management	7
Maja Kocijancic - spokesperson EC	5
Federica Mogherini – HR Foreign Affairs	3
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	3
Milo Đukanović - Montenegro PM	3

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