



Key Quotes

The EU said it was "**deeply concerned**" over events unfolding in crisis-hit former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, following deadly clashes that killed six police officers and an unknown number of unidentified gunmen. "**Any further escalation must be avoided, not the least in the interest of the overall stability in the country,**" EU enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn said in a statement late Saturday responding to the eruption of violence (eubusiness.com, UK, 10/5)

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/macedonia-unrest.114b/>

Summary

Serbia and South Stream

Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić has ruled out an option for the Turkish Stream gas pipeline to cross Serbian territory. Nikolić added that achieving a solution to the Kosovo issue was a basic requirement for accession to the EU, while relations with Russia and the sanctions imposed on the country could only be a problem once Serbia was an EU Member State (Novinite.com, BG, 8/5). The Serbian President also commented that Serbia was against the sanctions on Russia but when the country became member of the EU it would follow the common EU policy (focus-news.net, BG, 8/5).

- Novinite.com, BG, 8/5, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/168388/Turkish+Stream+via+Serbia+Is+Impossible+-+President+Nikolic>
- focus-news.net, BG, 8/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/05/08/371527/blic-turkish-stream-on-serbian-territory-impossible-says-president.html>

Situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Commenting on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, said "*Regardless of the political responsibility, there is a need for justice and the case should be completely solved*" and added "*the situation is highly serious and dangerous. The members of the EP are trying to hold talks to find a solution to the arguments between the parties involved. There is a need of investigation and for the people involved to assume responsibility, both criminal and political. That is why the opposition should return to parliament, which should establish a committee to probe the case*" the European Commissioner said during his visit to Belgrade (focus-news.net, BG, 8/5). Instability is beginning to be the norm in a country that ten years ago was an example for the region. A month without violent protests is exceptional. The European Commission, which generally does not use straightforward language, literally suggested in its latest assessment of the country that the EU accession is at a deadlock (Trouw, NL, 8/5).

- focus-news.net, BG, 8/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/05/08/371522/vecer-situation-in-macedonia-dangerous-opposition-should-return-to-parliament.html>
- Trouw, NL, 8/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150508/mi/item_247444407.pdf

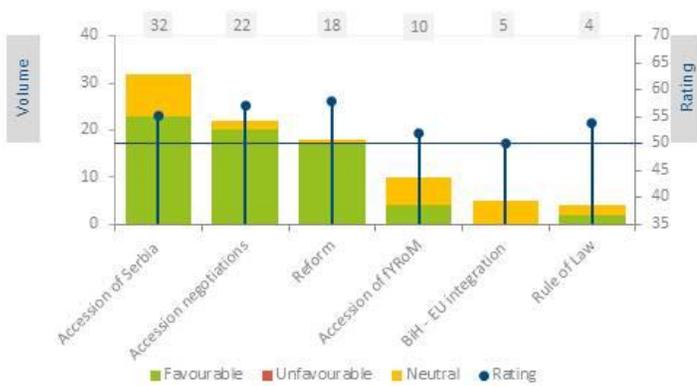
A Bulgarian view of enlargement

"*We hold the absolutely clear position about the need to speed up the process of integration of the Republic of Turkey as a natural bridge between the East and the EU*" said Lyutvi Mestan, leader of the Bulgarian Movement for Rights and Freedoms party, speaking in an interview with bTV adding "*In September, we, the Bulgarian liberals with the MRF and the National Movement for Stability and Progress, will host a regional meeting of the leaders of the liberal parties in the Balkans*". He said that the meeting is very important because it will discuss a liberal strategy for the speeding up of the integration of the Western Balkans in the EU (focus-news.net, BG, 8/5).

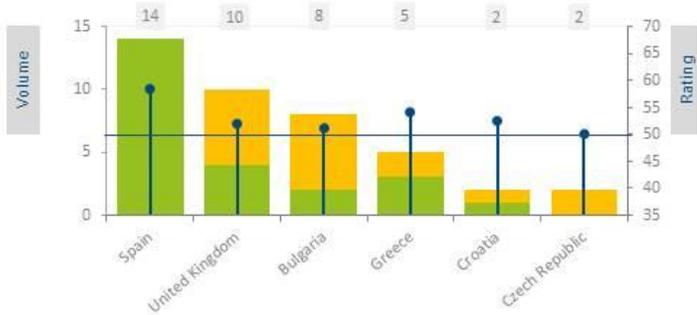
- focus-news.net, BG, 8/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/05/08/371517/bulgarias-mrf-turkeys-integration-should-be-speeded-up-as-natural-bridge-between-east-eu.html>

Charts

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



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



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

Volume	43 items
Rating	54.2
Favourable %	58.1%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	41.9%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	23
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	17
Saša Janković - Serbian rights official	7
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	5
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4

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