



## Key Quotes

Ambassador Matthew Rycroft of the UK Mission to the UN: **"The United Kingdom has always been a strong supporter of Bosnia and Herzegovina's long term stability and prosperity."** He continues: **"First, let us all give our full backing to the EU initiative on Bosnia and Herzegovina, first developed by the United Kingdom and Germany. The written commitment to reform by Bosnia's leaders, including those in the Republika Srpska, is a sign that the initiative can succeed. The EU will fulfil its side of the bargain; the Stabilisation and Association Agreement will soon come into force. As British Ambassador to Bosnia when the SAA was signed seven years ago, I am amazed and disappointed that it has not yet come into force"** (gov.uk, UK, 12/5).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-united-kingdom-has-always-been-a-strong-supporter-of-bosnia-and-herzegovinas-long-term-stability-and-prosperity>

## Summary

### Name dispute

An attempt by Gjorge Ivanov, the president of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where ethnic strife reignited over the weekend, to blame Greece for the Balkan nation's stalled efforts to join international alliances has not surprised Greek diplomats. The move is an attempt to highlight the dispute with Greece over the country's official name and to put Athens under pressure to reach a quick solution the sources say. In comments on Sunday, Ivanov urged the EU to start accession talks, but Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman, Constantinos Koutras, called on the government to focus on "serious problems... that have to do with the functioning of rule of law... respect for the principle of good-neighbourly relations and the country's democratic deficit... rather than looking for scapegoats and blaming others for the impasse in their Euro-Atlantic perspective" (Kathimerini, GR, 12/5). Foreign Ambassadors in Skopje held a meeting with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. The Ambassadors expressed their doubts about the government's democratic principles after the meeting (focus-news.net, BG, 12/5).

- Kathimerini, GR, 12/5, [http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/w\\_articles\\_wsite1\\_1\\_12/05/2015\\_549932](http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/w_articles_wsite1_1_12/05/2015_549932)
- focus-news.net, BG, 12/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/05/12/371983/voice-of-america-foreign-ambassadors-criticise-macedonia-govt-for-lack-of-actions-over-wiretapped-calls.html>

### Neighbours fuel crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Albania and Kosovo are fuelling the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by sending threats to the Macedonian government Boris Kálnoky writes in Die Welt, (DE, 12/5). Thirty Albanians, most of whom are from Kosovo, were charged with terrorism in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Monday following clashes between police forces and an armed group in Kumanovo this past weekend. Dozens of houses were destroyed, facades burned and damaged caused in attacks in which heavy arms and machine-guns were used, highlighting the intensity of the conflict in the suburb mainly populated by the Albanian minority. Albanian rebels were seeking greater rights and representation and the country's political and social life (Dalje.com, HR, 12/5).

- Die Welt, DE, 12/5, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150512/mi/item\\_247959631.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150512/mi/item_247959631.pdf)
- Dalje.com, HR, 12/5, <http://dalje.com/en-world/30-people-charged-with-terrorism-after-kumanovo-clashes/543776>

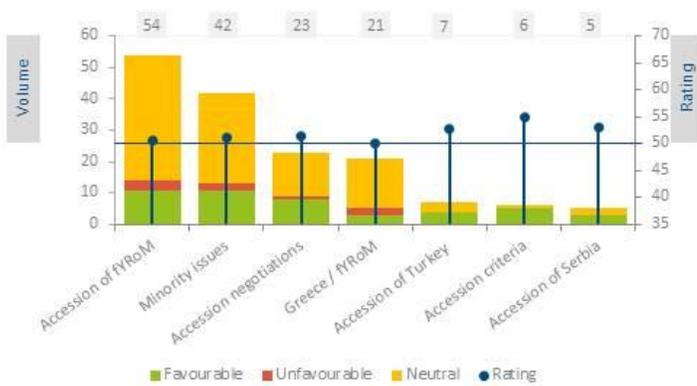
### Customs Union Agreement and Turkey

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci has said Turkey and the EU will sign a comprehensive memorandum of understanding on May 12th to update the Customs Union agreement. This agreement will actually be a road map for both sides to renew the Customs Union, but not a final document to upgrade it, according to sources. Zeybekci said at a meeting in Istanbul on May 11th. "As the Turkish government, we clearly conveyed to the EU that the Customs Union agreement will be unsustainable if the agreement is not updated or the demands of the Turkish government are not satisfied. The negotiations have started since then" (Balkans.com, UK, 12/5).

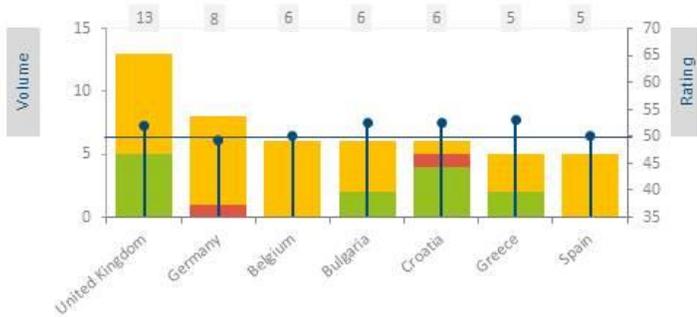
- Balkans.com, UK, 12/5, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=203500>

# 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	65 items
Rating	51.4
Favourable %	29.2%
Unfavourable %	4.6%
Neutral %	66.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski – PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	14
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	12
Gjorge Ivanov - President former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12
Jens Stoltenberg - Secretary General NATO	7
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	5

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