



## Key Quotes

European Commission Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva on Sunday voiced concern about the political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and urged all parties involved to show restraint. **"We've seen measures being taken, including resignations, to address the complexity of the problem and calm down the situation there,"** Georgieva said, adding: **"We are following very closely what is happening in Macedonia and we know that the best way to overcome the problems they are currently struggling to resolve is to act within a single European family"** (novinite.com, BG, 17/5).

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/168593/EU+Vice+President+Georgieva+Urges+Restraint+in+Macedonia>

## Summary

### Authorities involved in Kumanovo incident

The former Director of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Administration for Security and Counterintelligence, Saso Mijalkov, was actively involved in the staging of the terrorist attack in Kumanovo. This is claimed by the Serbian daily Blic based on information from the Serbian security services. Mijalkov, who is a cousin of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, has often been considered as the most powerful man in Macedonia. The former security chief was in control of the most influential politicians and criminals from Albania and the region. According to reports, the aim of the attack in Kumanovo was to spur an inter-ethnic conflict in order to divert the attention away from the opposition protests and consolidate support for the government (Novinite.com, BG, 15/5). Many in this ethnically-divided region may interpret the operation as a collision between Slavic orthodox Macedonians and Albanians. The question is whether this incident is an isolated phenomenon, or whether it is the start of a new armed conflict in the Western Balkans, a region largely forgotten while the world has been focusing on Ukraine and Islamic State (Die Tageszeitung, DE, 15/5). Bulgaria is amassing troops at its border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia following the incident in Kumanovo, say media inside the country (focus-news.net, BG, 15/5)

- Novinite.com, BG, 15/5, [http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=168555](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=168555)
- Die Tageszeitung, DE, 15/5, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150515/mi/item\\_248456359.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150515/mi/item_248456359.pdf)
- focus-news.net, BG, 15/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/05/15/372320/bulgaria-sends-troops-to-border-to-macedonia-commentaries-in-macedonian-press.html>

### Call for change

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there exists a growing conviction that the departure of the current government may be the only way to overcome the deep political crisis. Besides the opposition, political analysts, citizens and diplomats have made this clear. Political analyst, *Sašo Ordanoski* says the problem is not for one government cabinet to be replaced by another but that changes in the Media Authority and the resignation of the board of Macedonian Radio Television are necessary. (balkaneu.com, GR, 15/5). While the government meets the opposition leaders to negotiate the resolution of a deep political crisis in the country, some analysts wonder if the West is not pulling the strings behind the scenes (Alterinfo, FR, 15/5).

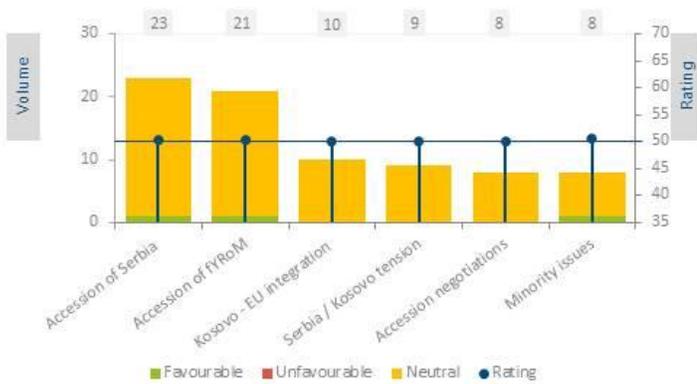
- balkaneu.com, GR, 15/5, <http://www.balkaneu.com/voices-urgent-resignation-government-fyrom-grow/>
- Alterinfo, FR, 15/5, [http://www.alterinfo.net/notes/Macedoine-et-si-la-controverse-ethnique-n-etait-pas-la-seule-raison-de-la-crise\\_b7791876.html](http://www.alterinfo.net/notes/Macedoine-et-si-la-controverse-ethnique-n-etait-pas-la-seule-raison-de-la-crise_b7791876.html)

**Ban Ki-moon praises the continuation of dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia** The United Nations has published the quarterly report for the Republic of Kosovo which has praised the continuation of dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade and the agreement reached on the judicial system. It says that one of the priorities and most decisive issues for the state of Kosovo is the creation of the Association of Serb Communes (balkaneu.com, GR, 15/5).

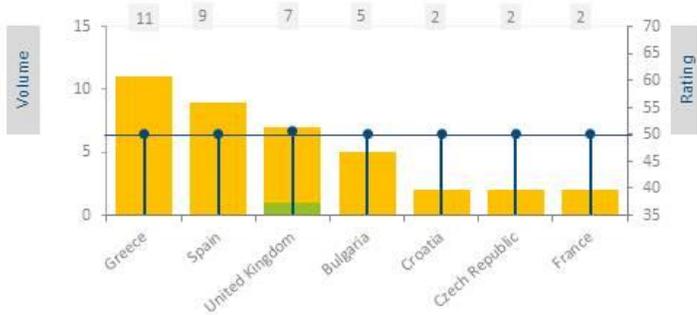
- balkaneu.com, GR, 15/5, <http://www.balkaneu.com/ban-ki-moon-praises-continuation-dialogue-kosovo-serbia/>

# 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	50.2
Favourable %	4.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	95.3%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	14
Tomislav Nikolić - Serbia President	13
Sergei Lavrov - FM Russia	13
Vladimir Putin - Russian President	11
Ivica Dačić - FM Serbia	7
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	6

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