



Key Quotes

"**EU membership remains Serbia's priority,**" says Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić, adding: "**We are doing our best to stay firmly on our EU path and to fulfil all our obligations**". But Serbia's past and its relations with Kosovo remain at times a haunting shadow. "**I think we have really achieved a lot, although it was not an easy question for us. It was a very hard, very difficult issue for us, but we carried on with the dialogue with Kosovo Albanians,**" explains the prime minister on building sustainable relations with Kosovo (euronews.com, FR, 19/5).

<http://www.euronews.com/2015/05/19/membership-of-the-european-union-remains-a-priority-for-serbia-says-prime/>

Summary

Tens of thousands rally for PM of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as opposition digs in

Tens of thousands of supporters of embattled Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski took to the streets of the capital in a show of strength on Monday, a day after a huge opposition protest called on him to resign. While supporters of Gruevski rallied, around 1,000 opposition demonstrators also set up a protest camp outside his offices as the political crisis in the Balkans country deepened. On Monday Gruevski repeated that he did not intend to step down, although he admitted "*mistakes and omissions*" that he pledged to correct. "*No surrender, no bowing down! ... Dark forces will not succeed*" Gruevski told the crowd as they chanted "*Macedonia! Macedonia!*" and "*Nikola! Nikola!*" (Yahoo!, UK, 19/5). "*They believed that they could break us, lie to us with fake and spliced tapes, with false narratives, tonight they have received their answer*" he said. Gruevski's fiery retort to critics came after he and opposition leaders failed to make progress at another meeting sponsored by the United States and the European Union (rferl.org, CZ, 19/5).

- Yahoo!, UK, 19/5, <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/tens-thousands-rally-macedonia-pm-opposition-digs-014125250.html>
- rferl.org, CZ, 19/5, <http://www.rferl.org/content/macedonia-gruevski-political-crisis/27024065.html>

EU-Turkey Association Council

The EU-Turkey Association Council reviewed EU-Turkey relations, heard views on a range of issues and reaffirmed the significance the EU attaches to its relations with Turkey, as a candidate country and a key partner for the EU. The EU expressed the hope that Turkey would actively support the negotiations aimed at a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded (Parikiaki, UK, 19/5). EU European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn stated that "*Turkey's European effort will soon move forward*". He noted that accession chapter 17 on economic and monetary union might open very soon, as the work has been completed and the relevant report will be submitted to the Council by June (Phileleftheros, CY, 19/5).

- Parikiaki, UK, 19/5, <http://www.parikiaki.com/2015/05/eu-urges-turkey-to-contribute-in-concrete-terms-to-a-cyprus-solution/>
- Phileleftheros, CY, 19/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150519/mi/item_249012713.pdf

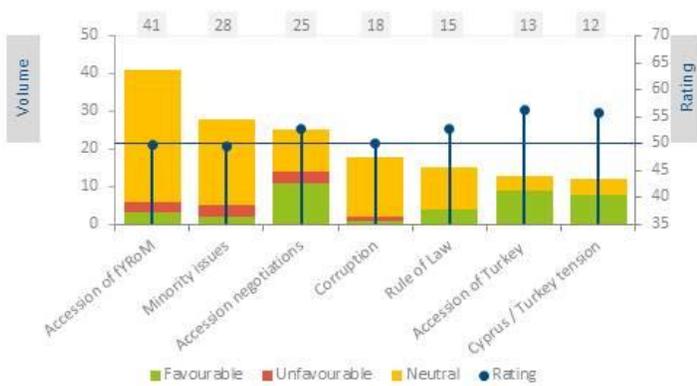
Policy for the Balkans

MEP Reinhard Bütikofer suggested the EU invest more strongly in the countries of the Balkans. He said that China perceived the Balkans as a single geostrategic region, while the EU still focused far too much on individual countries. A joint European strategy for dealing with China was needed - otherwise it would be easy for China to implement a policy of "divide and conquer" towards Europe (Kurier, AT, 19/5).

- Kurier, AT, 19/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150519/mi/item_249012423.pdf

Charts

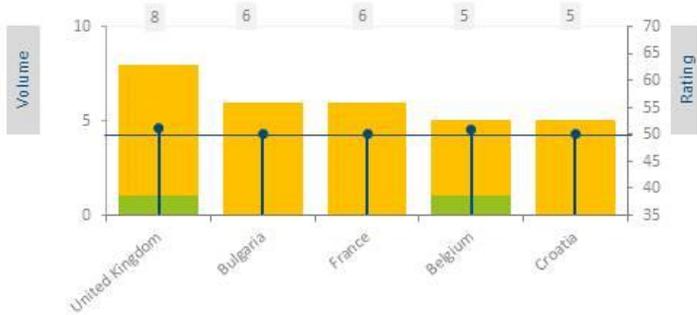
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Volume	59 items
Rating	51.4
Favourable %	22%
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	37
Zoran Zaev - opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	24
Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - Turkey FM	9
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	6
Volkan Bozkır - Turkey EU Affairs Minister	5
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	3
Vesna Pucić - FM Croatia	3

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