



Key Quotes

The European Union must step up negotiations for integration of other countries in the region and offer them a perspective and a clear date in this respect, and not **“moving targets,”** said Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta. **“We are already members of the EU and we strongly support the inclusion of all other countries in the region. We believe it is in the interest of the European Union and of the countries in the region that negotiations are accelerated so that the latter have a clear perspective for all those countries committed to join the Union. We must have a deadline, we must have clear targets, not moving targets,”** he said (romaniajournal.ro, RO, 26/5).

<http://www.romaniajournal.ro/pm-ponta-to-take-part-to-seecp-summit/>

Summary

Historic visit to Albania

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić will on Wednesday become the first Serbian head of government to visit Albania, aiming to improve the fragile relations between the two Balkan nations. In Tirana, on Wednesday, Vučić will have talks with his counterpart before speaking the following day at an economic forum in which regional country leaders will participate. Bilateral tensions have also been fuelled by demands by the ethnic Albanian minority in Serbia for more autonomy or even a unification with Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority (France 24, FR, 26/5). Vučić said he was looking forward to the visit with optimism, stressing that differences could only be solved through dialogue. For Serbian analyst *Dušan Janjić* the improvement of relations between Tirana and Belgrade is the key for the stability in the Balkans (Yahoo!, UK, 26/5).

- France 24, FR, 26/5, <http://www.france24.com/en/20150526-serbian-pm-make-historic-visit-albania>
- Yahoo!, UK, 26/5, <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/serbian-pm-historic-visit-albania-025407777.html>

Opposition to the visit of the Serb PM to Albania

So far there have been comments on media and social networks and his arrival has provoked criticism. The Red and Black Alliance, a radical political organization, led by Kreshnik Spahiu has demanded the visit be postponed. *“Vučić's arrival or the arrival of any ally from the Balkans or Europe is nothing else but intervention in the affairs of Albania and an illegal visit in an electoral process ahead of June 21st”* he says (balkaneu.com, GR, 26/5). However Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama, has said *“We expect to boost the cooperation with Serbia and follow the road to peace and European integration together. We believe that Serbia and Albania can do for the Balkans what Germany and France did for Europe”* (Balkans.com, UK, 26/5).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 26/5, <http://www.balkaneu.com/visit-serb-pm-albania-contested/>
- Balkans.com, UK, 26/5, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=203910>

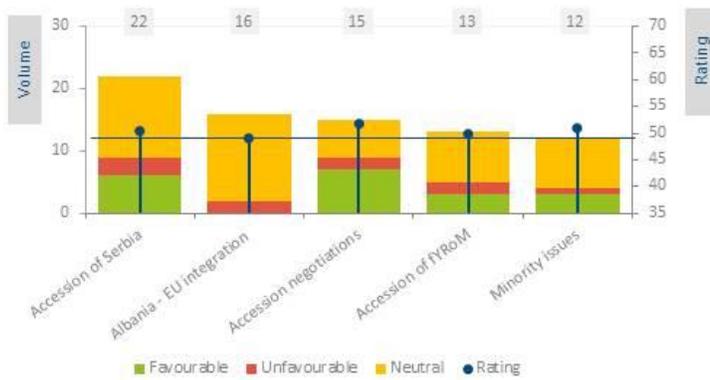
Call for EU involvement in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

An explicit and visible commitment by the European Union is needed to ensure the preservation of the territorial integrity of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as civic and inter-ethnic peace, Bulgarian President Rossen Plevneliev and Croatian foreign minister Vesna Pusić said. Recently Bulgaria has been underlining a key role for the EU in the troubled former Yugoslav republic and did so again on May 26th (sofiaglobe.com, BU, 26/5). The leaders of the four-biggest political parties are expected to meet for yet again over the political crisis in the country. Analysts think that the meeting will not result in any decisions but still they expect the talks to be useful because the leaders of the two Albanian parties will be informed about the Strasbourg meeting (focus-news.net, BG, 26/5).

- sofiaglobe.com, BU, 26/5, <http://sofiaglobe.com/2015/05/26/bulgaria-explicit-and-visible-commitment-by-eu-needed-for-territorial-integrity-of-macedonia/>
- focus-news.net, BG, 26/5, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/05/26/373376/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-another-leaders-meeting-to-be-held-in-skopje.html>

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	44 items
Rating	50.6
Favourable %	22.7%
Unfavourable %	9.1%
Neutral %	68.2%

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

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	13
Tomislav Nikolić - President Serbia	12
Edi Rama - PM Albania	12
Sergio Mattarella - President Italy	12
Vesna Pusić - Foreign Affairs Minister Croatia	9
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - President Turkey	8

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