



Key Quotes

New Europe editor Dan Alexe talked with Selim Yenel, Turkish Ambassador to the EU, about the stage of his country's negotiations with the EU. **"There's a lot of issues that have to be discussed. We have made reforms. The reforms were made thanks to EU assistance. And now we don't see that assistance as it used to be. If we are going to continue on the reforms track, we need the EU. All these, let's say, accusations or criticism concerning human rights, rule of law, etc. could be handled better if we have the EU on our side,"** Selim Yenel said (neurope.eu, BE, 1/6)

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/turkey-is-a-patient-country/>

Summary

Obstacles instead of solutions

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski, is now avoided in the EU by many. In Brussels there is an attempt to gain time in order to deal with the unstable country. The mediation of MEPs between opposition chairman Zoran Zaev and Mr Gruevski has been without major result but at least the two are talking to one another in Brussels according to Adelheid Wölfl in a commentary in Der Standard (AT, 29/5). However, she says, when looking at how many people Mr Gruevski's party was able to mobilise for a demonstration recently, it is clear that he is still on the up and a solution to the problem of the country joining the EU is still not in sight. Novinite.com (BG, 28/5) reports that the political crisis into which Macedonia has plunged over the past years is affecting neighbouring states as well, the country's opposition leader has said while on a visit to Sofia. Zaev met Prime Minister Boyko Borisov at the Council of Ministers, telling journalists afterwards that he would like to extend his gratitude to Sofia authorities for making an effort to help find a way out of the political turmoil.

- Der Standard, AT, 29/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150529/mi/item_250552873.pdf
- Novinite.com, BG, 29/5, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/168899/Macedonia's+Crisis+Affected+Entire+Region+Zaev+Tells+Bulgaria+PM>

Recognition of Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo could be moving toward the next step of EU candidacy as the two of its five remaining EU opponents are relaxing their positions on the state. Since declaring its independence in 2008, Kosovo has yet to be recognised as a sovereign nation by five EU Member States: Greece, Romania, Slovakia, Cyprus and Spain. While some of Kosovo's larger supporters have praised its transition to a democratic system which claims a focus on protecting the rights of its citizens, many are still not convinced of its stability. However, the tide might soon be turning as both Greek and Romanian officials have said recognition of Kosovo is not ruled out and is possible in the near future (New Europe, BE, 29/5).

- New Europe, BE, 29/5, <http://www.neurope.eu/article/kosovo-the-next-step-forward/>

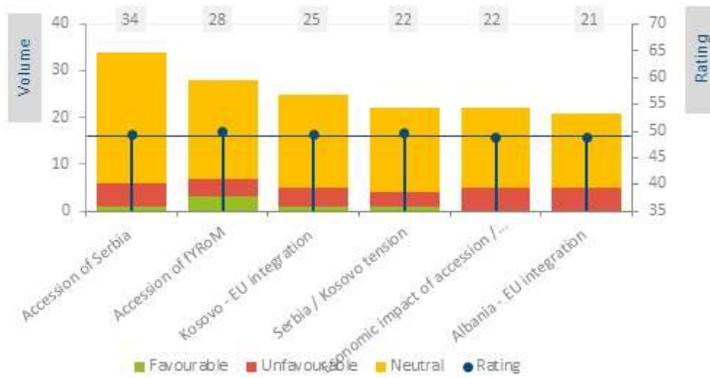
Serbian visit to Albania

During the two-day visit of the Serbian Prime Minister Vučić, the Serbian and Kosovo Albanian politicians preferred to avoid the topic of Kosovo. Recognition of the independence of Kosovo is still unthinkable. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama did not repeat his statement from April, when he said that Albania and Kosovo, where the Albanian majority lives will join together whether within the EU or not. Instead, he expressed a different view (Mlada Fronta Dnes, CZ, 29/5).

- Mlada Fronta Dnes, CZ, 29/5, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150529/mi/item_250535048.pdf

Charts

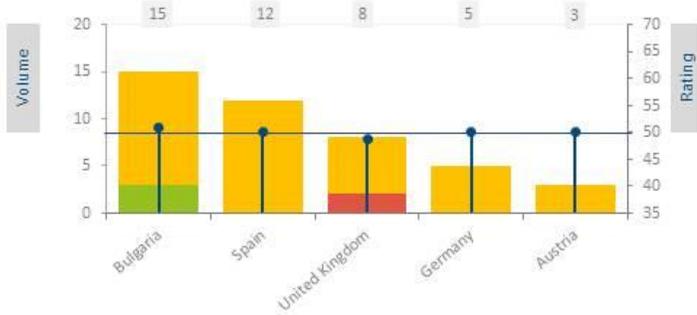
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	22
Edi Rama - Albania PM	20
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	13
Isa Mustafa - PM of Kosovo	10
Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria	7
Afitete Jahjaga - President Kosovo	6
Milo Đukanović - PM Montenegro	6

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