



## Key Quotes

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina enters into force today. **"New chapter begins. Political clarity, decisive action and a real, coordinated effort by institutions at all levels are now needed to develop and implement the reform agenda,"** said Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission in a statement. **"The SAA also brings new responsibilities stemming from its implementation and for BiH authorities to deliver upon. The Commission will spare no effort assisting the country's authorities in the implementation of the necessary reform agenda,"** added Johannes Hahn (index.hr, HR, 1/6) <http://www.index.hr/vijesti/clanak/bih-stupanje-sporazuma-o-stabilizaciji-i-pridruzivanju-na-snagu-je-povijesna-prilika-za-zemlju/823223.aspx>

## Summary

**Violence in 'powder keg' Macedonia-a cruel awakening for Brussels** (Het Financieele Dagblad, NL, 1/6).

Talks between the biggest parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on resolving the political crisis are entering a sensitive phase before the visit of European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn. According to analysts, Hahn's visit to Skopje is considered an attempt at accelerating the negotiations. Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski said the opposition Social Democratic Union of Macedonia should understand that the time for electing ministers and a government was offered only at elections, and with the support of a majority of voters. Mr Gruevski commented that he was refraining from responding to speculations spread by media close to the opposition about the formation of an interim government (focus-news.net, BG, 1/6). However in Skopje, there were banners and placards denouncing Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and the government he leads from the dazzling white headquarters that overlooks the protest camp in the centre of the capital (Balkans.com, UK, 1/6).

- Het Financieele Dagblad, NL, 1/6, [http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150601/mi/item\\_250891795.pdf](http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150601/mi/item_250891795.pdf)
- focus-news.net, BG, 1/6, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/01/374008/utrinski-vesnik-macedonia-nikola-gruevski-doesnt-ponder-idea-of-early-elections.html>
- Balkans.com, UK, 1/6, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=204075>

### Press freedom a sensitive issue in Turkey's elections

Turkey's governing AK Party has highlighted the measures it has taken to help the country's Kurdish minority as a way of attracting their votes in the 7 June election. The state broadcaster now has a channel in Kurdish and a Kurdish newspaper has been made legal. However, this has not helped the government's record on press freedom heavily criticised both in Turkey and abroad as the BBC's Selin Girit reports from Kurdish-majority Diyarbakir (BBC, UK, 1/6).

- BBC, UK, 1/6, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32952633>

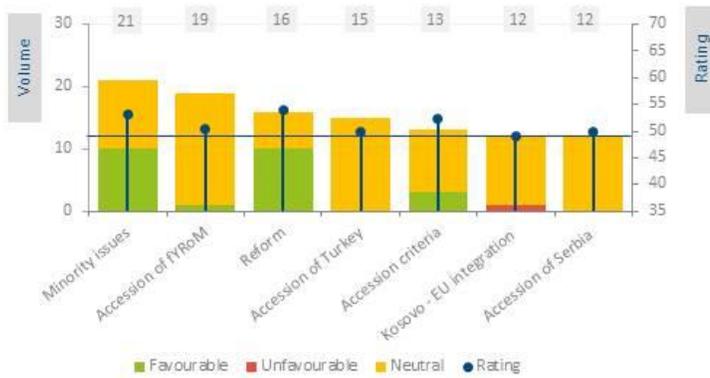
### Role of Hashim Thaçi

Today former Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi is a player with a secondary role in Kosovo's state. As chief of diplomacy and with many ambitions, he's aiming on raising the level of Kosovo's foreign policy, but this mission has merely turned him into a "pilgrim" who is not bringing anything special to Kosovo in terms of recognition or liberalisation of the visa regime. His sincere efforts for good neighbour relations failed since the very beginning. In Montenegro, he was received by protests, he was called a murderer, while he was only welcomed by those few Albanians remaining there. The visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the meeting with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, was presented as successful but his true face was revealed after this visit when some media called him a criminal, accusing him of being the leader of an organisation that dealt with the trafficking of human organs, drugs and weapons (balkaneu.com, GR, 1/6).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 1/6, <http://www.balkaneu.com/kosovos-diplomatic-challenges/>

# Charts

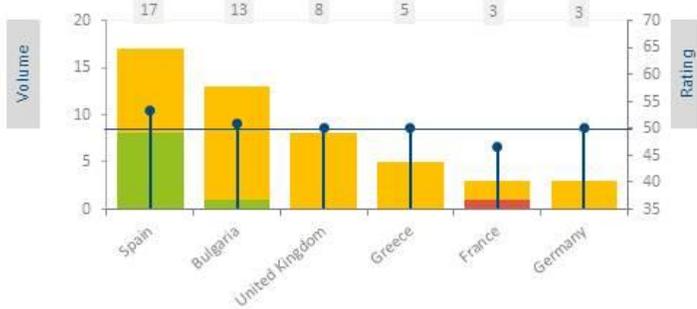
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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**  
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| ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources                              | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 15                 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President                    | 14                 |
| Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement         | 12                 |
| Boyko Borisov - President Bulgaria                         | 10                 |
| Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria                                 | 9                  |
| Ahmet Davutoğlu - Turkey PM                                | 2                  |

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