



Weekly Media Report

7 – 10 October 2013

International Affairs

Last meeting with Thaçi-Daçiç ended without any concrete agreement - *Balkan Web (Balkans)*, 7 October 2013

Brussels – The meeting between Thaçi-Daçiç, mediated by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Catherine Ashton, ended without any concrete agreements. The only achievement was to continue with visa procedures that have been in place so far, which means that the Serb Officials can enter Kosovo after their request is reviewed by Kosovo Government. According to Prime Minister Thaçi, none will be denied entry to Kosovo's territory.

<http://www.balkanweb.com/kosova/2686/takimi-i-radhes-thaci-dacic-perfundon-pa-marreshje-konkrete-152609.html>

The future of south east Region is with the EU, Romania and Lithuania will support Albania - *Gazeta Panorama (Albania)*, 8 October 2013

Romania and Lithuania have guaranteed full support of the Albanian path towards EU Integration, but they stress the need to improve dialogue among political parties. Foreign Minister of Lithuania, Mr. Linas Linkevicius (under the scope of its Presidency in EU), and Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Titus Corlatean, Chairman of the Initiative of South East Cooperation (SEECF) are visiting Albania.

<http://www.panorama.com.al/2013/10/08/bushati-me-homologet-e-rumanise-e-lituanise-e-ardhmja-e-rajonit-eshte-ne-be/>

Albania – Italian Foreign Minister visits Albania - *Balkan Web (Balkans)*, 9 October 2013

On 9 October 2013, the Italian Foreign Minister, Ms. Emma Bonino, started her agenda by paying a visit to Albania where she talked with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ditmir Bushati. "Italy will support Albania to get the Candidacy Status in December, but it is like a tango, which both partners have to dance, so the Albanian government should perform its role very well", Bonino said during a press conference. She also discussed about Trans Adriatic Pipeline project (TAP) which will be a gas supplier via Albania to Italy.

<http://www.balkanweb.com/kosova/>

No threats to Trans Adriatic Pipeline project (TAP)'s Italian section, visiting Italian Foreign Minister says - *Radio Club FM (Albania)*, 10 October 2013

The Italian Foreign Minister, Emma Bonino, stated during her visit in Tirana, Albania, that the implementation of the Italian section of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) natural gas project is not in danger, despite the postponement of the vote on this project in the Italian Senate. She also announced that the Italian government is going to close down the Italian Consulate in Shkodra (North of Albania) after 13 years, but according to Ms. Bonino, it should not be considered a decline of the Italian presence in the country.

<http://tunein.com/radio/Club-FM-1004-s9262/>

The official number of immigrants who died last week in the Mediterranean, close to Lampedusa, rises to 213. The President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, stated: 'Italy has been left alone by the EU' – *Repubblica (IT)*, 7 October 2013

President Schulz affirmed that Europe has left Italy to deal with the immigrant issue alone for too long, condemning the lack of solidarity among the EU Member States in dealing with this delicate issue. He also asserted that from now on, all the other EU countries, including Germany, have to be ready to welcome more refugees.

http://palermo.repubblica.it/cronaca/2013/10/07/news/pozzallo_arrivano_201_profughi_tr_a_loro_anche_due_neonati-68065672/?ref=HREC1-4

Egyptian soldiers killed in Ismailiya and Sinai attacks – *BBC (UK)*, 7 October 2013

Gunmen killed five Egyptian soldiers who were in a patrol vehicle outside of the Suez Canal city of Ismailiya, say security officials. A large car bomb struck headquarters of the security forces in southern Sinai, killing five, while a rocket attack hit a satellite station in a Cairo suburb. The attacks follow a day of deadly clashes on Sunday, 6 October. Security forces have been the frequent victims of attacks in northern Sinai, where analysts say a fully fledged insurgency is building.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24427345>

Concern for health of Greenpeace activists detained in Russia – *The Guardian (UK)*, 7 October 2013

Some of the 28 Greenpeace activists and two journalists being detained in Russia while awaiting piracy charges are being kept in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day, while others are held in "extremely cold" cells, according to the head of Greenpeace.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/07/health-greenpeace-activists-russia-piracy>

Russian court hears appeals in Greenpeace case - *RIA Novosti (Moscow)* 8 October 2013

A court in Russia's Arctic port of Murmansk began hearings Tuesday, 8 October 2013, to decide if the 30 detainees from a Greenpeace icebreaker seized last month on piracy allegations should stay behind bars pending trial. The Greenpeace vessel, the Arctic Sunrise, was seized by Russian border guards in mid-September after several activists tried to scale an oil rig operated by an affiliate of state-run gas giant Gazprom in the Pechora Sea to protest against oil drilling in the Arctic, which environmentalists call hazardous and unprofitable.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131008/184001251/Russian-Court-Hears-Appeals-in-Greenpeace-Case.html>

Russia to expand cooperation with Asia-Pacific region - *RIA Novosti (DENPASAR, Indonesia)*, 8 October 2013

Russia plans to expand power industry interaction with countries of the Asia Pacific region, President Vladimir Putin has said: "We export large quantities of natural gas to European countries. At the same time, we see that energy resources are playing an ever more important part in speeding up economic growth in the Asia Pacific region," Putin told a two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Bali, Indonesia, Monday. "We are aware of our responsibility in this sector and therefore plan to expand our energy sector cooperation with our partners in Asia. This concerns several different areas: fossil fuels, and advanced technology too."

<http://en.ria.ru/business/20131008/183998043/Russia-to-Expand-Cooperation-with-Asia-Pacific-Region--Putin.html>

Russia's Putin demands Dutch apology over treatment of diplomat - *RIA Novosti (DENPASAR, Indonesia), 8 October 2013*

Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has demanded an apology from the Netherlands over the alleged assault and forcible detention by police of a Russian diplomat in The Hague over the weekend. Russia has submitted a note of protest at the treatment of Dmitry Borodin, calling it a breach of diplomatic regulations. "This is a crude violation of the Vienna Convention. We await clarifications, apologies and the punishment of those guilty," Putin said, speaking from Bali, where he is attending an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131008/184000274/Russias-Putin-Demands-Dutch-Apology-Over-Treatment-of-Diplomat.html>

Singapore Prime Minister criticizes U.S. 'game of chicken' – *CNN (US), 8 October 2013*

Singapore's Prime Minister openly criticized the United States over the government shutdown and ongoing deadlock over the debt ceiling, calling them "problems you have created for yourself in a game of chicken." In an interview with CNN's Patricia Wu on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Americans "are unable to get their act together," and that Washington's behavior sends a "negative signal which will last much longer than the shutdown." The government shutdown led U.S. President Barack Obama to cancel his attendance at the APEC Leaders' summit just days before he was meant to arrive.

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/07/world/asia/singapore-prime-minister-lee-interview/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

Malaria vaccine: Hopes rise for 2015 target after successful trials – *The Guardian (UK), 8 October 2013*

A vaccine against malaria could be introduced in the world's worst-hit countries in 2015, after the latest trial of a treatment produced by Britain's biggest drug company reduced the number of cases of the disease experienced by babies.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/oct/08/malaria-vaccine-trial-children-babies>

Hamid Karzai blasts US and NATO over attacks as security talks drag on – *The Guardian (UK), 8 October 2013*

Hamid Karzai has ruled out signing a security deal with the United States until disagreements over sovereignty are resolved. In angry remarks, the Afghan President condemned the NATO alliance for a military occupation that had caused "a lot of suffering, a lot of loss of life and no gains because the country is not secure".

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/08/hamid-karzai-afghanistan>

U.S. to cut some military aid to Egypt – *CNN (US), 9 October 2013*

The United States is preparing to announce a decision "in the coming days" on assistance to Egypt, the White House said Tuesday, 8 October 2013, and U.S. officials told CNN military aid will be cut, though not all of it. The announcement comes in the wake of the July coup against President Mohamed Morsy and the turmoil that has followed as recently as this week, one U.S. official said Tuesday, 8 October 2013. However, some military aid could continue, including funds to uphold Egypt's obligations under its peace treaty with Israel, and money for counterterrorism and security in Sinai,

where extremists have been able to set up base, according to a senior U.S. official. The United States will also maintain non-military funding that helps democracy promotion, the official said.

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/08/us/egypt-aid/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

Hugh Segal, Canada's special envoy to the Commonwealth, accuses Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth chief, of defending Sri Lanka's regime accused of human rights abuses, intensifying row over summit – *The Guardian (UK)*, 9 October 2013

On Tuesday, 8 October 2013, Hugh Segal accused Kamallesh Sharma of "acting as a shill [a stooge] for the Sri Lankan leadership, defending their every mistake". His remarks intensified the row over the Commonwealth's decision to host its biennial heads of state meeting in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo next month. Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, announced on Monday, 7 October 2013, that he would boycott the summit because of alleged human rights abuses by Mahinda Rajapaksa's government, which until 2009 was engaged in a brutal civil war. India, the Commonwealth's largest country, is undecided about whether its Prime Minister, Mahoman Singh, should attend.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/08/commonwealth-chief-stooge-sri-lanka-claims-canada>

Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan seized by armed men – *BBC (UK)*, 10 October 2013

Libyan Prime Minister, Ali Zeidan, has been seized by armed men in the capital, Tripoli. Mr. Zeidan was taken from his hotel before dawn "by gunmen to an unknown place for unknown reasons", said a government statement. A former rebel group loosely allied to the government said it had arrested him following a prosecutor's warrant. The government has denied this.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24470850>

Russia's Putin hails Obama for 'averting tragedy' in Syria - *RIA Novosti (Denpasar, Indonesia)*, 9 October 2013

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed his US counterpart Tuesday, 8 October 2013, for undertaking what he said were actions that have helped avert a tragedy in the ongoing civil war in Syria. Putin said that while he and US President Barack Obama remained divided on the Syrian issue, they shared common goals. These are "to democratize the situation, to create conditions under which all people living on this territory – people of different religions, ethnic groups – can live together in peace," Putin said.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131008/184010783/Russias-Putin-Hails-Obama-For-Averting-Tragedy-in-Syria.html>

National Affairs

Supreme Court as deep docket in its new term – *The NY Times (US)*, 7 October 2013

After back-to-back terms ending in historic rulings that riveted the nation, the Supreme Court might have been expected to return to its usual diet of routine cases that rarely engage the public. Instead, the court's new term, which starts Monday, 7 October 2013, will feature an extraordinary series of cases on consequential constitutional issues, including campaign contributions, abortion rights, affirmative action, public prayer and presidential power.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/07/us/politics/supreme-court-has-deep-docket-in-its-new-term.html?hp>

Brazil Rio and Sao Paulo teacher protests turn violent – *BBC (UK)*, 8 October 2013

Protesters demonstrating in support of teachers receiving better pay in the Brazilian cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have clashed with police. The centre of Rio was packed with more than 10,000 people marching peacefully. But as it got dark, some protesters threw firebombs at public buildings and riot police responded with tear gas. A similar protest in Sao Paulo also ended in violent confrontation with police after many banks were ransacked by hooded protesters.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24439987>

Obama to nominate Janet Yellen to head Federal Reserve – *BBC (UK)*, 9 October 2013

US President Barack Obama will nominate Federal Reserve Vice-Chair, Janet Yellen, to be the next head of the US central bank on Wednesday, 9 October 2013, according to a White House official.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-24453026>

Repubblica (Italian newspaper) launched an initiative to collect signatures against the Bossi-Fini immigration law – *Repubblica (IT)*, 9 October 2013

Following the death of more than 200 immigrants in the Mediterranean last week, Repubblica launched an initiative to collect signatures against the Bossi-Fini immigration law. The Bossi-Fini is the last comprehensive reform of the Italian policy on immigration. The Italian immigration ministry Cécile Kyenge also called for the abolition of this law, which, she affirmed, does not address the immigration issues that Italy is facing. Moreover, it is thought that the Bossi-Fini worsens the living conditions of third country nationals.

http://www.repubblica.it/politica/2013/10/09/news/gifuni_bergamasco_cavani_parrella_firme_abolizione_bossi-fini-68214895/?ref=HRER3-1

Russian Human Rights Group Wins International Award - *RIA Novosti (Moscow)*, 9 October 2013

A Russian human rights group has won a prestigious international award for its dedicated effort to defend human rights in Russia's North Caucasus Republic of Chechnya, the Human Rights Watch NGO said.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131009/184021158/Russian-Human-Rights-Group-Wins-International-Award.html>

The Italian Senate abolished the crime of illegal immigration – *Corriere della Sera (IT)*, 10 October 2013

Yesterday, Wednesday, 9 October 2013, the Italian Senate approved the amendments proposed by the M5S (5 Stars Movement) to the Bossi-Fini law on immigration. As a consequence, the crime of illegal immigration (entry and stay) has been abolished, even though all the related procedures (i.e. expulsion from the Italian territory) remained part of the Italian policy on illegal immigration.

http://www.corriere.it/cronache/13_ottobre_09/via-reato-immigrazione-clandestina-senato-approva-l-emendamento-m5s-fe96b7d2-310b-11e3-b3e3-02ebe4aec272.shtml

Judges at Top Russian Court Quit Ahead of Reforms - *RIA Novosti (Moscow)*, 10 October 2013

Seven judges at a top Russian court have resigned ahead of looming major reforms to the country's justice system. The announcement follows a Kremlin-engineered initiative to reform the system of top courts by merging the Supreme Arbitration Court, the country's highest forum for the handling of commercial disputes, and the Supreme Court. The merged body is to be moved from Moscow to St. Petersburg.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131010/184047000/Judges-at-Top-Russian-Court-Quit-Ahead-of-Reforms.html>

Iran - No pictures of women for marketing - *Top Albania Radio news (Albania)*, 9 October 2013

Religious authorities in Iran have formally forbidden usage of a woman's image for commercial affairs. According to Mehr Agency, it is considered immoral to create publicity using images of women in order to sell products.

<http://www.topalbaniaradio.com/onair.html>

Economy

US releases \$100 banknote with new security features – *BBC (UK)*, 8 October 2013

The US Federal Reserve has issued a new hi-tech \$100 banknote comprising several new security features. It includes a blue 3D security ribbon and a bell and inkwell logo that authorities say are particularly difficult to replicate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-24431952>

The Italian government is searching for a public partner to resolve the economic problems of Alitalia, the national flight company – *Corriere della Sera (IT)*, 8 October 2013

After the possibility for a partnership with *Ferrovie dello Stato* (the Italian national rail company) vanished, the Italian government continues to search for a public partner to resolve the economic problems of Alitalia. Negotiations among the government and the company's representative continue after the impossibility to find an agreement on the 300 million Euro credit on Monday, 7 October 2013. Among those who participated to the meeting on Monday, some are convinced that the only possible alternative to save the company is to sell it to Air France-Klm.

http://www.corriere.it/economia/13_ottobre_07/alitalia-governo-favore-air-fran-ce-klm-08cb6996-2f77-11e3-bfe9-e2443a6320c1.shtml

Starbucks aims to move beyond beans – *The NY Times (US)*, 9 October 2013

In a suburb due east of Los Angeles, Starbucks is opening a \$70 million, state-of-the-art plant that will produce cold-pressed juices. The factory is the latest investment that underscores Starbucks' determination to transform its brand from being synonymous with coffee to a food and beverage juggernaut. In the last two years, Starbucks has spent \$750 million acquiring three new businesses — Evolution Fresh juices, La Boulange Café and Bakery, and Teavana — as it tries to muscle in on prized grocery shelves and compete in territory now dominated by the likes of Panera Bread and Chipotle.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/business/a-juice-and-croissant-with-that-starbucks-latte.html?hp&r=0>