



Weekly Media Report

28 – 31 October

International affairs

Russia and Ukraine edge closer to 'gas war' – BBC (UK), 29 October 2013

The possibility of a new "gas war" between Russia and Ukraine inched closer on Tuesday, 29 October, as the Russian state energy giant Gazprom complained that Kiev had outstanding debts of over half a billion pounds and demanded swift payment. Gazprom's concern comes a month before Ukraine is due to sign up for closer ties with the European Union, a deal that has infuriated the Kremlin.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/29/russia-ukraine-gazprom-gas-war>

Syria polio outbreak confirmed by World Health Organization – BBC (UK), 29 October 2013

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed 10 cases of polio in war-torn Syria - the first outbreak in the country in 14 years. The UN body says a further 12 cases are still being investigated. Most of the 22 people who have been tested are babies and toddlers. Before Syria's civil war began in 2011, some 95% of children were vaccinated against the disease. The UN now estimates 500,000 children have not been immunised.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24726592>

Syrian chemical weapons seen likely to ship to Albania for destruction – Global Security Newswire (US), 30 October 2013

U.S. officials are pursuing an increasingly likely possibility that Albania will accept Syrian chemical weapons for destruction, following Norway's decision last week to decline the task, according to key sources and issue experts. Some other countries - including Belgium - as of recent days also had not ruled out a role in the effort, sources said.

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/syrian-chemical-weapons-seen-likely-ship-albania-destruction/>

Syria chemical weapons equipment destroyed, says the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – BBC (UK), 31 October 2013

Syria's declared equipment for producing, mixing and filling chemical weapons has been destroyed, the OPCW says. This comes a day before the deadline set by the international watchdog.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24754460>

World's most powerful people 2013 – Forbes Magazine (US), 31 October 2013

According to Forbes Magazine the world most powerful people in 2013 is Vladimir Putin, followed by Barak Obama (3 points less this year). According to the American

magazine, Angela Merkel remains the most powerful woman. The list includes 17 heads of state and 28 billionaires.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/forbes-reveals-worlds-most-powerful-people-2013--with-vladimir-putin-beating-obama-to-the-top-8913265.html>

National affairs

Kosovo Police destroyed 1325 small and light weapons – *Albanian National News Agency (Albania)*, 30 October 2013

Kosovo Police has destroyed over 1315 small and light weapons in the metal Factory “Foundry”, in Janjevë. The Kosovo Minister of Internal Affairs, Bajram Rexhepi, referred to this operation as a result of the National Action Plan on Control and Collection of Small and Light Weapons. Chris Decker, the representative of United Nations Development Program, affirmed that this event is a significant result of the five year support that UNDP is giving to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kosovo Police.

<http://noa.al/en-post/en/373802.html>

French are confident about the arrival of d’Aubry to government – *Libération (France)*, 30 October 2013

A survey led by IFOP for the *Journal du Dimanche* shows that more than nine out of ten French citizens are waiting for changes from François Hollande concerning his politics, his method and his governmental team. According to this inquiry, the popularity of the president is falling rapidly and his choices are contested from all sides: 43% of the French believe that he «should more than anything change his politics», 30% wish for a change of method and 18% for restructuration. Only 9% of the respondents think that the president has nothing to change.

http://www.liberation.fr/politiques/2013/11/03/neuf-francais-sur-dix-attendent-un-changement-de-la-part-de-hollande_944240

Economy

Macedonia among 10 top improving countries – *Albanian Daily News (Albania)*, 29 October 2013

In their annual report ‘Doing Business’, the World Bank and International Finance Corporation ranked Macedonia among the 10 top countries with the highest economic improvements. According to the report, this country has made significant improvements for local businesses, energy sector, and transactions.

<http://www.noa.al/artikull/magedonia-mes-10-ekonomive-me-permiresime-me-te-medha-per-biznes/375786.html>

French pension system given low grades – *Le Figaro (France)*, 29 October 2013

According to an international rank by the Mercer Cabinet, the French pension system ranks 10th out of 20 countries. Denmark leads the rank, followed by the Netherlands and Australia. France is situated after Germany, the US and Chile. At the bottom of the list are South Korea, India and Indonesia.

<http://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/2013/11/04/20002-20131104ARTFIG00105-le-systeme-francais-de-retraites-mal-note.php>