

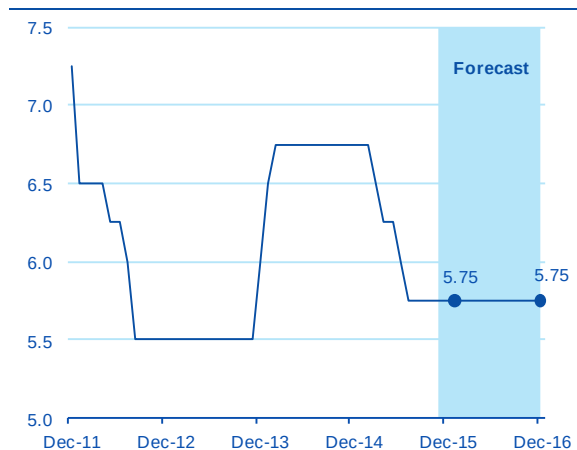
6 Market interest rates are converging towards the MPR

At the moment, the policy rate remains at 5.75% (see Figure 6.1) in a setting where inflation and expectations are still in line with the target level (see Figure 6.2). Even though a slackening of economic activity persists, the central bank continues to await events that might happen on the external front over the next few quarters.

Looking ahead, our forecast assumes that the central bank will hold the benchmark at 5.75% until the end of 2016. This is factoring in that expectations will remain anchored at 4.5%, despite the prospect of a Fed rate hike and its effect on the PYG exchange rate. We thus expect a gradual rise in the MPR in line with the pick-up in growth.

Figure 6.1

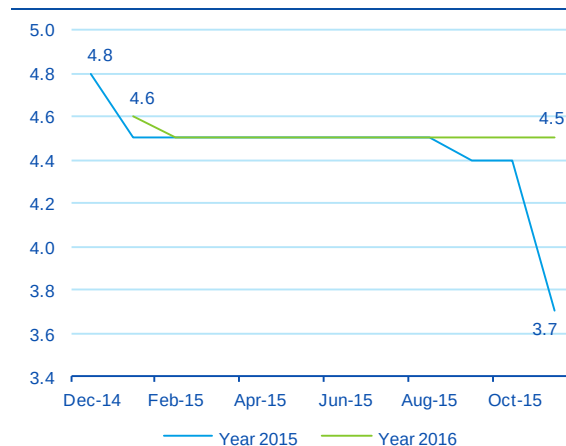
Monetary policy rate (%)



Source: BCP and BBVA Research

Figure 6.2

Inflation expectations (% var. YoY)



Source: BCP and BBVA Research

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