

Market Comment | Dovish central banks and rebound in oil prices support financial markets

Global Financial Markets Unit 29 Jan 2016

- **Disappointed US GDP.** Real GDP growth slowed to a 0.7% QoQ SAAR pace in 4Q15, down from 2.0% in 3Q15. Annual investment in mining declined 35%, marking the worst year since 1986. Despite 1Q16's shaky start, we maintain our expectations for a solid 2.5% pace in 2016 (see)
- Mixed data in Europe. Eurozone CPI in January increased slightly, in line with the estimates (by 0.4% YoY, BBVA Research 0.4% YoY, previous month 0.2% YoY), underpinned by a smaller decline in energy prices. On the other hand, core inflation brought good news, increasing ahead of expectations (1% YoY, BBVA Research 0.9% YoY). However, inflation might moderate again in February. Meanwhile, the money supply M3 moderated in December (by 4.7% YoY; consensus: 5.2%, previous 5% YoY), while loans to non-financial corporates also slowed down (0.1% YoY in December, 0.7% YoY in November) and loans to households continued growing, at 1.9%. The German retail sales dropped less than our forecast (by -0.2% MoM; BBVAe: -0.4%, consensus: +0.4%). On another front, both the French and the Spanish 4Q14 GDP grew in line with forecasts (0.2% QoQ; previous quarter: +0.3% QoQ in France and 0.8% QoQ, previous quarter: 0.8% QoQ in Spain).
- Bank of Japan introduced a negative interest rate. The BoJ surprised the markets in its today's monetary policy meeting, by altering the interest rate on new excess reserves from +0.1% to -0.1% while keeping the Quantitative and Qualitative Easing programme unchanged at JPY80trn/year. The impact of the measure could be softer than the ECB's rate cuts, because in this case the negative rate only affects new reserves but the authority's signal of the easing effort was strong. According to the statement, the authority could cut the interest rate further again if necessary. The BoJ reacted to the JPY's appreciation (due to the safe-haven effect), concerns about China's outlook (and about its FX policy) and the lack of inflation in ongoing global contexts. This decision could add more pressure to the RMB with the JPY's depreciation.
- High volatility amid central bank decisions and the rebound in oil prices. This week was also marked by the oil price, that extended last week's positive trend on rumours about a potential agreement to cut oil output, which encouraged a rebound in oil prices to USD37/bbl. Although this effect was rapidly diluted when OPEC's delegates said that there were no plans to hold talks (there are some rumours of an OPEC meeting in February which have yet to be confirmed, but currently the next OPEC meeting is scheduled for 2 June). Nonetheless, oil prices ended the week showing a good net performance (WTI +4.5% and Brent: +7.6% this week). Other factors that determined the direction of risk assets were the central bank meetings that took place during the week. The FOMC statement sounded more dovish, after highlighting the US economic vulnerability, encouraging markets to discount any chance of a interest-rate hike at the March meeting. The weaker-than-expected 4Q15 GDP growth would reinforce this sentiment. On another front, the Bank of Japan's announcement of a negative interest rate might cause a significant movement on the markets, not just because of the cut itself but because of the signal and tone that the BoJ is sending. Against this backdrop, yields fell sharply across developed market, dropping on the back



of the central banks' statements which were more dovish than expected this week - especially today's rate cut in Japan - and the risk haven effect that still weighed on some curves. European safe-haven yields dropped during the week (GER 10Y: -12bp, FRA 10Y: -15bp) as well as the US curve (2Y:-10bp and 10Y: -12bp) and the Japanese curve (10Y: -14bp). European peripheral yields also declined (ITA 10Y: -14bp, SPA 10Y: -20bp, POR 10Y: -14 bp) narrowing the peripheral risk premia. Despite the high volatility during the week, the European equity markets closed almost unchanged. (Euro Stoxx: +0.2%, DAX -0.2%, IBEX +0.6%). The Italian banking sector hampered the MIB (-2.3%), despite the agreement reached between the Italian government and the European Commission, under which the Italian government will implement a guarantee scheme to help Italian banks to clean up their balance sheets. In the same way, US indices ended broadly flat - amid 4Q corporate earnings results and the Fed's concerns about a recovery in internal activity (S&P: +0.3%). Asian markets showed very a volatile performance: the first half of the week was marked by doubts about the Chinese equity markets (Shanghai: -6% this week), despite a further intervention by the PoBC, injecting CNY440bn (USD66.89bn) into the banking system - the biggest such move in three years - amid fears about a cash shortage in a context of increasing capital outflows from China. On the other hand, the Japanese Nikkei jumped by 3.3%, after the BoJ's announcement, which depreciated the yen and encouraged a rebound in exporters' stocks. On the FX markets, the USD showed a mixed performance against other major currencies (EUR: +0.19%, JPY: -1.86%), due to the FOMC's meeting. EM currencies appreciated against the US dollar, mainly those most linked to oil prices or those which had been heavily punished in previous weeks (COP: +0.4%, MXN: +1.5%, CLP:+0.8%, RUB:+3.8%, BRL: +1.8%, TRY: +1.4%).

Update 17.00 CET 29 January, 2015 Table 1



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Fuente: BBVA Research



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Fuente: BBVA Research

*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay **Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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