### Market Comment | Growth concerns encourage fresh bond markets gains

Global Financial Markets Unit 18 Feb 2016

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- The ECB released the monetary policy accounts of its 21 January meeting. The minutes confirm that the Governing Council (GC) was unanimous regarding reviewing and possibly reconsidering its monetary policy stance at its March meeting. The accounts revealed that this assessment came about because downside risks had increased since the start of the current year. In this context, the minutes underlined that the GC remained willing and able to act, if warranted, reaffirming that the GC had a broad range of instruments at its disposal.
- FOMC Minutes, Details Reveal Increased Uncertainty Among FOMC Members. Economic and financial conditions have deteriorated sharply since January's Fed meeting and the probability of a recession in the US has increased. With this outlook, the markets do not expect a rate hike in March, even though the labor market continues its positive trend. Regarding inflation, it "would take somewhat longer than previously anticipated to rise to the Committee's objective." the FOMC said. In this meeting, FOMC members were "unclear" on how the uncertainty and volatility might impact their outlook. (see)
- The OECD downgrades 2016 global outlook to 3.0% from the 3.3% previously forecast. The cut is based on lower growth in DM, especially in the US (2.0% vs 2.5% previously forecast) and the eurozone (1.4% vs 1.8% previously expected), along with some weaker growth in major EM countries that rely on commodity exports.
- US mixed data. Positive US labor market reading: US jobless claims declined more than expected in the week ended 13 February (by 7K to 262K; consensus: 275K), while business confidence remains low despite the improvement Philadelphia Fed business (by 0.7 to -2.8 points; consensus: -3.0) and market turmoil weighs on the leading indicators (by -0.2%MoM).
- China's CPI rose less than expected in January (by 1.8%YoY; consensus: 1.9%), while PPI. dropped less than estimated (by -5.3%YoY; consensus: -5.4%).
- Uncertainty about global growth intensified after the OCED announced a cut in its 2016 outlook, encouraging fresh gains in bond markets, which also were boosted by the dovish central bank minutes. US treasury yields declined (2Y: -2bp 10Y: -4bp) offsetting part of yesterday's increase. European yields also dropped across the board, led by Portugal (GER 10Y: -5bp FRA 10Y: -6bp ITA 10Y: -5bp SPA 10Y: -3bp POR 10Y: -7bp). On another front, European equity markets suffered from high volatility. They had been increasing for more of the day but the gains diluted at the end of the session hampered by the downturn in oil prices (Eurostoxx: -0.1% IBEX: -0.8% DAX: +0.9% CAC: +0.1% MIB: -1.5%). In the same vein, US indices dropped (S&P: -0.3% Dow: -0.2%). Mixed performance in Asian markets: China's indices dropped (Shanghai: -0.16% Shenzhen: -0.34%), dragged down by the worse-than-expected CPI data in January, while the Nikkei increased strongly on the back of the authorities' dovish tone. On FX markets, the USD showed a mixed performance against other major currencies



(EUR: -0.29% JPY: +0.46% GBP: +0.21%). EM currencies showed varying responses against the USD. The Mexican peso extended yesterday's gains against the US after yesterday's unexpected interest rate hike (see), meanwhile the rouble and the TRY were dragged down by the escalation of the geopolitical conflict and the new downgrading of Brazil's sovereign rating (S&P cut Brazil's LT ratings to BB from BB-), weighing on the Brazilian real (RUB: -1.7% BRL: -0.8% TRY: -0.4%, COP: +0.7% MXN: +1.0%). Meanwhile, oil prices rose in the first half of the session boosted by the previous day's negotiations among oil producers about freezing production. However, the worse-than-expected EIA weekly data -showing an increase in the supply- caused the fall in oil prices (Brent: -0.9%). In contrast, gold prices continued their upward trend (+0.9%), suggesting that investors remains cautious.

Update 17.30 CET 18 February, 2015 Table1

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[Current level and changes at dally, weekly, monthly and annual frequencies)
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#### \*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay \*\*Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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