Market Comment | EM risk-taking rebounds on the back of dovish Fed and rising oil prices

Global Financial Markets Unit 18 Mar 2016

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- The University of Michigan sentiment drops in March. University of Michigan sentiment preliminary data showed an unexpected decrease in March (by 1.7 points to 90.0; consensus: 92.2).
- The ECB's Peter Praet: The ECB has not reached the lower bound. Mr. Praet supported the package of measures taken by the ECB last week, as the risk for price stability remains high. Although he acknowledged that the European economy is improving, the recovery is still very fragile, and external shocks can easily trigger a vicious circle, with further downward pressure on inflation. On the negative deposit rate, he considers that it has had a positive impact, but the impact on banks' profitability also needs to be considered. Nonetheless, he said that the ECB has not reached the lower bound "...As other central banks have demonstrated, we have not reached the physical lower bound"
- · EM risk-taking rebounds on the back of dovish Fed and rising oil prices. Following last week's bold measures by the ECB, this week's FOMC meeting was the main market driver, coupled with the ongoing rebound in oil prices. The FOMC played cautiously into expectations with the March announcement, dodging another rate increase for now but not completely ruling out potential policy action in the near future (see). Markets reacted by revising expectations for even further dovishness - consolidating the view of only one rate hike during 2016 (from the two rate hikes expected before the meeting). The Fed's announcement had a significant impact on sovereign bonds, especially in the US where they fell sharply in the second half of the week in all tenors (2Y: -12 bps 10Y: -10 bps). Moreover, European yields, which were immersed in a process of repricing towards a context of less rate cut in Europe at the end of last week turned their positions, ending the week declining, with peripheral yields sharply dropping (GER 10Y: -5 bps FRA 10Y: -6 bps ITA 10Y: -5 bps SPA 10Y: -4 bps). The dovish Fed statement also impacted strongly on FX, with the USD depreciating sharply against other major currencies (EUR: +1.15% GBP: +0.83 % JPY: +2.09%). The euro reached 1.13 USD, while the yen appreciated strongly, although the BoJ reinforced its dovish tone. Moreover, EM currencies also appreciated against the US dollar (RUB: +2.5% MXN: +2.4% COP: +2.6% CLP: +1.1%) underpinned by the rebound in commodity prices, especially in oil, (Brent: 3.4% Wtx: 4.4% Copper: 2.5%) helped also by the USD depreciation, better-thanexpected macroeconomic data and by the OPEC and non-OPEC country meeting - scheduled for 17 April; additionally, on March 21 OPEC members will hold a meeting in Vienna). Furthermore, weaker USD, lower expectation of a rate hike in the US coupled with the ongoing rebound in oil prices boded well for an increase in EM risk taking. Against this background, the EM bond, CDS and equity markets, especially Latin America's, outperformed DM. The 5Y CDS narrowed across the board in EM during the week (Brazil -14 bps, Mexico -22 bps, Russia -24 bps, Turkey -26 bps, China -14 bps), while the equity markets surged in the week (MSCI Latam: +2.3%, MSCI Europe: +2.1%, MSCI Asia: +1.8%). Although all markets' risk measures signalled a risk-on mood, with implied volatility in equity markets declining (VIX: -16.1%, VStoxx: -14.2%), not all risky assets outperformed this week. The European equity markets underperformed this week, dragged mainly by the banking sector with the exception of Dax (Eurostoxx: -0.4% IBEX: -0.5% DAX: +1.3% CAC: -0.6% MIB: -1.8%). The US indices benefited from the downward



revision in the Fed's policy path (S&P: +1.4% Dow: +2.1%).

Update 17.30 CET 18 March, 2015 Table1

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

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