

Market Comment | High volatility in markets today

Global Financial Markets Unit
12 May 2016

- **Worse than expected labour data in the US.** In the US jobless claims rose unexpectedly in the week ended 7 May (294K; consensus: 270K) while continuing claims in the week ended 30 April increased against estimates of their decline, to 2,161K from 2,124K (consensus: 2,120K).
- **Euro zone industrial production fell in March** against our estimates of its increasing (by -0.8%MoM; BBVAe: +0.2%, consensus: 0.0%) dragged down by all its components - non-durable consumer goods, capital, intermediate and durable goods - with the exception of energy production. On another front, French CPI harmonised final data confirmed the continuation in negative territory as in March (at -0.1% YoY) due mainly to the contribution of manufactured products and despite the moderation in the fall in energy prices.
- **Bank of England holds interest rate at 0.5%.** BoE members voted unanimously for the fourth meeting in a row to hold its key interest rate at its current record low levels (). Concerns about the referendum on 23 June are weighing on the UK economy. "Activity growth slowed in Q1 and a further deceleration is expected in Q2. There are increasing signs that uncertainty associated with the EU referendum has begun to weigh on activity," the BoE explained.
- **High volatility in markets today.** Oil prices remained as one of the main drivers in financial markets. Oil prices began the session by moving upwards, underpinned by the positive comments from the International Energy Agency report, which said that demand had grown fast in the first quarter, and taking account of the supply disruption and cuts the IEA expects that the excess supply would be less than ly forecast in H1 2016. Moreover, the IEA also sees any changes to its current 2016 global demand outlook as tilted to the upside. However, volatility appeared again, trimming the previous gains in oil prices as investors expect Canadian oil production to resume in the coming days (Brent: -1.4%, Wtx: -1.1%), also dragging down risky assets. The BoE's warning about the negative impact on growth if Brexit finally happens - it said that even a recession is possible - also contributed to dampening the positive mood in the markets in the first term of the session. Against this backdrop, on bond markets, both US and major European countries' yields inched up (US 10Y: +1 bps, GER 10Y: +3 bps, ITA 10Y: +3 bps, SPA 10Y: +2 bps, POR 10Y: -1 bps). On the other hand, the Greek 10-year yield extended its declines (-7 bps) as investors expect the ECB to allow Greek banks to access the refinancing lines. European equity markets declined slightly, with the chemical sector dragged down by rumours about M&A movements (Euro Stoxx 50: -0.7%, IBEX: -0.1%, DAX: -1.2%, CAC: -0.5%) In the same vein, US equity indices were down at the time of writing (S&P: -0.3%, Dow: -0.2%). On FX markets, the USD showed a mixed performance against other major currencies. The euro and Japanese yen depreciated, the latter underpinned by the probability of further easing of monetary policy by the Bank of Japan. The British pound appreciated against the USD despite the unanimous vote by BoE members to keep interest rates unchanged and the warning about the effect of Brexit (EUR: -0.31%, JPY: -0.3%, GBP: +0.21%). EM currencies depreciated against the US dollar (RUB: -0.5%, BRL: -1.3%, CLP: -0.5%), with the volatility of the Brazilian real being

particularly marked due to the impeachment process of its President Dilma Rousseff: the Senate session admitted the impeachment case. Vice-President Temerl assumed presidential duties today and started appointing a new economic team (including a new finance minister, Henrique Meirelles).The turbulent political environment could add to financial volatility going forward (see). In addition, the Brazilian 5Y CDS declined by -11 bps.

Update 17.30 CET 12 May, 2016

Table 1

*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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