

# Market Comment | Fed's comments drove financial markets today

Global Financial Markets Unit  
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- **DBRS warned on Portugal's debt.** The head of sovereign ratings at DBRS, a credit agency, said that the low-growth economy, and high levels of government and corporate debt along with concerns about the banking sector could reduce Portugal's creditworthiness. DBRS rating for Portugal (BBB low) allowed its bonds to remain part of the ECB bond buying programme, ahead of the rating review, that carries a stable outlook and is due on October 21.
- **Comments of Fed's official grabbed markets' attention.** Early this morning the US dollar depreciated sharply on the back of the market's perception of the dovish tone reinforced by **Fed's Williams** as he said that central banks could explore new alternatives such as modifying (increasing) the **inflation target**. Later on, mixed indicators in the US (US inflation close to market's expectations) coupled with comments of Fed's **Dudley**, who said that a rate rise in **September is on the table** - he also pointed out that market expectations do not reflect the Fed's expected policy path - contributed to change slightly the previous mood. Nonetheless, the USD lost some steam today, against its main peers (+0.97% JPY, +1.06% GBP, EUR +0.85%) reinforced by encouraging data from Europe: euro zone and Germany ZEW euro zone economic sentiment surprised positively.
- Against this backdrop, the speech of Fed's Dudley weighed on bond markets, **triggering a rise in the US yield curve** (USD2Y +2 bps; US10Y +2 bps) and thereby pushing up 10Y Government bond yields across the board (GER +4 bps, FRA +5 bps). However, **risk premiums of European peripherals rose slightly**, led by Portugal whose sovereign debt yield soared (10YPOR +15 bps), triggered by the DBRS warning, ahead of the October rating review by DBRS.
- **Major equities markets went down across the board** and consolidated after the recent rally (S&P500 -0.3%, Euro Stoxx -0.7%). Asian equities led the drop (Nikkei -1.6%, FTSE China A50 -1.35%), after worse-than-expected Q2 economic growth figures were published by Japan (0%QoQ, consensus 0.2%QoQ, prior 0.5%QoQ). In China, the authorities signalled a trading interconnection between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong stock exchanges, to be effective before year-end, allowing foreign investors access to a market focused on start-ups and technology companies.
- **Oil prices continued the rally amid hopes that oil producers could agree an output freeze** in an **OPEC** meeting in Algeria (September 26-28) reinforced by comments from non-OPEC members such as the Russian energy minister who said his country was willing to agree with other oil producers to achieve market stability. However, during the session the rally moderated and the oil price ended up 1% higher. EM currencies appreciated in this context, shored up by a weaker dollar and oil prices (MXN +0.5%, COP +0.4%, TRY +0.4%).

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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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