

Market Comment | Cautious markets ahead of Fed minutes release

Global Financial Markets Unit 17 Aug 2016

- In a session characterised by sparse economic data releases, a cautious mood was felt in the markets, ahead of **the release of the FOMC's minutes**, which could hint at the Fed's future path regarding the interest rate normalisation process. Statements by Fed officials during the week, in which they showed a slightly hawkish tone, put the Fed's path in the spotlight and contributed to increasing the odds of an interest rate hike in the September meeting (from 22% to 24%) and for the December meeting (above 50% from 48%), the highest level since early June (higher even than the pre-Brexit level).
- Against this backdrop, **equity indices went down across the board, led by European indices**, (Euro Stoxx 50 -1.1%, Dax -1.3%) reflecting the global cautious sentiment and continuing with yesterday's consolidation process after European indices' recent rally. In spite of mild drops (S&P500 -0.4%), the US indices continued hovering around their historically highest levels. The stock market interconnection between Shenzhen and Hong Kong was received by Asian markets in a muted way with few gains in the Shenzhen Composite (+0.32%) and slight drops in the Hang Seng (-0.48%).
- The USD remained stable against its main peers (EUR -0.13%, GBP -0.27%, JPY +0.1%) after its recent depreciation (EUR/USD stands close to 1.13) while appreciating against EM currencies (COP -0.5%, CLP -1.1%, PLN -0.7%, MXN -1.1%, TRY -0.1%) amid high volatility in oil prices. Finally, the oil price ended up almost flat (-0.2%) **despite crude oil inventories**, which dropped against expectations of an increase (-2.4M, consensus 0.52M, prior 1.05M).

Updat 17.45 CET 17 August, 2016 Table 1

Flash 1



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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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