

Market Comment | European yields jump after ECB keeps policy unchanged

Global Financial Markets Unit 08 Sep 2016

- At today's monetary policy meeting there were no changes in the ECB's monetary policy stance, as the central bank left key interest rates unchanged and confirmed that the monthly asset purchases of €80 billion are intended to run until the end of March 2017, or beyond if necessary. Moreover, Mr Draghi highlighted that there was no discussion at today's meeting on expanding the asset purchase programme (APP) or any other measure. Nevertheless, he reaffirmed the Governing Council (GC) unanimity in its commitment to continue with current stimulus measures until it sees a "sustained adjustment in the path of inflation consistent with its inflation aim." Moreover, he reiterated that the central bank is willing and able to act if needed. The risks to the euro zone growth outlook remain tilted to the downside and relate mainly to the external environment. The Staff barely changed its projections over the forecast horizon.
- The uneventful ECB monetary policy meeting **slightly disappointed financial markets**, as a certain amount of fine tuning in PSPP had been expected. There was some volatility ly, with the euro appreciating strongly, European yields jumping and European equities declining. However, the European equity markets trimmed losses and the euro moderated its gains later in the session.
- The European bond markets suffered the highest movements. The 10Y German sovereign bond yield increased (+6bps), remaining at negative levels, while the peripheral yields showed bigger increases (Spain +6bps, Italy +8bps, Portugal +10bps) as Mr Draghi did not hint at capital key changes. The surge in European yields also drove US and UK yields higher (+ 5bps and +8bps respectively), partly offsetting last Tuesday's fall in yields, which took place when investors reassessed the probability of the FOMC's interest rate hike.
- The **euro ended the session appreciating** against other main currencies (Euro Index 0.34%). On the other hand, the Japanese yen (JPY -0.5%) and the British pound (GBP -0.3%) remained stable against the USD. Meanwhile, **oil prices rose (3.71%), supported by the higher-than-expected draw in oil inventories data** (14.5M, consensus 0.23M, prior 2.28M) and encouraging Chinese imports. Against this backdrop, EM currencies showed mixed performances (TRY -0.5%, MXN -1.2%, CLP -0.2%, PLN +0.2%, COP +0.2%).
- Higher yields and a stronger euro weighed on European equity markets ly, while European stocks recovered some ground at the end of the session, but still inching down for the day as a whole (Euro Stoxx50 -0.3%, Dax -0.7%). The European banking sector outperformed (EMU banks +1.6%). US equities continued tilted to the downside but little changed (S&P500 -0.2%), hovering around their historically highest levels. In Asia, Japan's GDP Q2 upward revision (0.7%, consensus 0.2%, prior 0.2%) along with China's higher-than-expected imports (1.5%, consensus -4.9%, prior -12.5%) and exports (-2.8%, consensus -4%, prior -4.4%) had a mild effect on stocks (Hang Seng +0.75%, Nikkei -0.3%).



Update 17.45 CET 08 September, 2016 Table 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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