

Market Comment | Calm markets after a high-volatility context at the beginning of the week

Global Financial Markets Unit
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- **Calm in financial markets after an early part of the week characterised by increasing volatility** (VIX drew close to June's level, at 17%) on the back of, among other things, **doubts regarding upcoming monetary policy decisions** and fears about a reversal of the bond markets. The sparse significant economic data released during the last few days contributed to focus all the market's attention on central banks, especially on the Fed's stance which, coupled with last Thursday's ECB meeting, has been leading bond markets' movements in recent sessions. Although Monday's dovish discourse by the Fed's Brainard had a limited impact on markets (it lowers the probability of an interest rate hike in September, but did not lead to any falls in yields), today financial markets moved in accordance with an assumed slight delay in the next rate hike by the Fed.
- In this regard, the implied probability for September went down to 20% from 22%, while for December it was down to 53% from 57%, with rising US stocks and lowering government yields. **The US curve dropped** (2Y -4 bps, 10Y -4 bps) **while European bonds went down across the board** (10YITA -3 bps, 10YSPA -3 bps, 10YGER -5 bps), thereby halting the recent surge in bond yields since the ECB's inaction during its last meeting. The recent mild increase in sovereign slopes, which benefited the financial sector, remained, as all tenors dropped at a similar pace as well as the peripheral risk premium, which inched up marginally.
- The equity markets momentarily halted their recent poor performance across the board. **The US indices were little changed**, with some gains in US (+0.3%) as well as the European indices (Euro Stoxx50 -0.2%, Dax +0.1%).
- The **stability of the USD** against its main peers remained (EUR +0.37%, JPY +0.13%, GBP +0.02%) while emerging currencies showed a mixed performance (TRY +0.2%, CLP +0.5%, MXN -0.8%, COP +0.9%, PLN +0.8%). The recent negative trend in oil prices, which drove the WTX to US\$43.97 a barrel and Brent to US\$46.22 a barrel continued (-2.1% and -1.9% respectively) despite the positive stockpile data. Against the expectations of an increase in US oil inventories, they dropped, but with no significant effect on prices. (-0.559M, consensus 3.800M, prior -14.513M).

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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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