

Market Comment | Markets react to Draghi's dovish tone

Global Financial Markets Unit 03 Sep 2015

- The ECB strikes a dovish tone as it revises down its GDP and inflation outlook. The Governing Council did not change its monetary policy stance, as expected (policy rate at 0.05%) but it increased the amount of any one issue that it could buy within its asset-buying programme (to 33% from 25%). Mr Draghi reiterated the Council's commitment to a full implementation of the Asset Purchase Programme (APP), stressing the ECB's willingness and ability to take further action if needed. Mr Draghi clarified that there was no discussion at today's meeting on expanding the APP, yet he highlighted the Council's discretionary power to potentially adjust the size, composition and duration of APP purchases. In addition to announcing a downward revision to the outlook, the Council stated that additional downside risks (related to EM and oil prices) have emerged. Despite the above, Draghi confirmed earlier rumours that the ECB had lowered the ceiling of the Emergency Liquidity Assistance from EUR89.7bn to EUR89.1bn.
- Mixed data in the US. On the labour markets, jobless claims surged more than estimated in the week ended 29 August (by 12K to 282K; consensus: 275K), whereas continuing claims for the week ended 22 August dropped less than expectations (by 9K to 2,257K; consensus: 2,253K). On the other hand, the Markit services PMI rose unexpectedly in August (by 0.9 points to 56.1; consensus: 55.0), while the ISM non-manufacturing composite index dropped less than estimates (by 1.3 to 59.0 points; consensus: 58.2). Meanwhile, US trade balance deficit in July diminished more than expectations (by USD3.34bn to -USD41.86bn; consensus: -USD42.20bn).
- Higher-than-expected PMI and sales readings for the eurozone as a whole. Eurozone retail sales rose in July less than estimated (by 0.4% MoM; BBVAe: 0.6%, consensus: 0.5%), while retail sales YoY increased more than expectations (by 2.7% YoY; consensus: 2.0%). On the other hand, the eurozone Markit composite PMI rose in August, against estimates of remaining unchanged (by 0.2 to 54.3; BBVAe and consensus: 54.1), and the Markit services PMI increased against expectations of remaining unchanged (by 0.1 points to 54.4; BBVAe and consensus: 54.3). By country, the German Markit composite PMI rose unexpectedly (by 1.0 points to 55.0; BBVAe and consensus: 54.0), and the Markit services PMI also increased unexpectedly (by 1.3 points to 54.9; BBVAe and consensus: 53.6), whereas in France the Markit composite PMI dropped against forecasts of remaining unchanged (by 1.1 points to 50.2; BBVAe and consensus: 51.3), and the Markit services PMI decreased unexpectedly (by 1.2 points to 50.6; BBVAe and consensus: 51.8). The Italian Markit composite PMI rose against estimates of decreasing (by 1.5 points to 55.0; consensus: 53.1), while the Markit services PMI surged more than estimated (by 2.6 points to 54.6; consensus: 52.5). Meanwhile, the Spanish Markit composite PMI increased of the expected fall (by 0.5 to 58.8 points; consensus: 57.9) and the services PMI fell less than estimated (by 0.1 to 59.6 points; consensus: 59.3).
- Markets react to the ECB's dovish tone. Although most analysts expected a dovish message from the ECB, the tone was even more so. In this context, European equities intensified their previous gains, with



major indexes surging by around 2% (Euro Stoxx: +2.6 %, CAC: +2.6%, Ibex-35: +1.4%, DAX: +3.0%). These upturns in European equities and the absence of any relevant news from China (because of the official holiday) enabled an increase in US equity markets (S&P 500 and Dow Jones: +1.1%) Bond markets were also affected by the ECB's soft message. European yields dropped (GER 10Y: -4bp, FRA 10Y: -5bp, SPA 10Y: -2bp, ITA 10Y: +5bp, POR 10Y: -9bp, GRE 10Y: -30bp), as US Treasuries are remaining broadly unchanged. The EUR depreciated against the USD (-1.18%, falling to 1.11). Other major currencies remained steady against the USD (JPY: +0.03%, GBP: -0.46%). EM currencies are having a mixed perfomance. While some currencies depreciated against the USD (TRY: -0.7%, BRL: -0.6%, MLY: -0.89%), several commodity-linked currencies appreciated (COP: +1.8%, RUB: +0.9%, CLP: +0.5%) on the back of a slight recovery in commodity prices (Brent: +3.4% WTI: +4.2% and copper: +2.9%).

Update 17.00 CET 03 September, 2015 Table1



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*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay

**Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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