

Market Comment | China's better than expected 3Q GDP had no impact on global markets.

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- China's GDP moderated less than expected in 3Q15, allaying fears of a hard-landing (6.9% YoY, BBVA Research 6.5% YoY, consensus 6.8% YoY, previous 7.0% YoY). Nonetheless, the 3Q GDP figure could be affected by statistical factor, underpinned by changes in the GDP methodology. This is the first time that the GDP growth has been below 7% since the first quarter of 2009. Nevertheless, in sequential terms, the pace of growth picked up modestly (1.8% QoQ sa in 3Q15, 1.7% QoQ in 2Q15). Moreover, the GDP components, along with a number of September activity indicators are suggesting that China's economy is undergoing a rebalancing towards consumption and the service sector at a pace faster than we envisaged. (see)
- Greek parliament approved the economic reform package, that paves the way for the disbursement of a EUR2bn loan from the EU to Greece. There were 154 votes for and 140 against "prior actions", which included fiscal and structural reforms. Next Month, the Greek parliament needs to approve an additional package in order to release EUR15bn-25bn of funding needed to recapitalise the banks. Tomorrow, Greece's lenders will visit Athens to supervise the approved reforms.
- China's better than expected 3Q GDP had no relevant impact on global markets. Despite positive surprise in China's growth prints, the data showed the slowest rate since 2009. This fact is evidence that the Chinese economic slowdown is maintaining concerns about the global economic outlook. Against this backdrop, even the Asian indices did not react to the news in China (Nikkei: -0.9%, Shanghai: -0.14%). European indices showed mixed trading (Euro Stoxx: +0.2%, DAX: +0.6%, IBEX-35: -0.3%, CAC: 0.0%), while the US indices opened with a negative bias (S&P 500: -0.2%), dragged down by (among other factors) some negative 3Q results from the banking sector. On bond markets, US treasury yields remained unchanged and the probabilities of a hike-rate this year remain close to 30%. In the same line, European core yields stayed flattened, while periphery yields showed a mixed performance. On the back of the news concerning the new reform package, the Greek 10Y yield reached its lowest level since December (-35 bp to 7.58%), while other peripherals countries remained unchanged, with the exception of Portugal's yield which partially corrected last week's rise (ITA 10Y: -1bp, SPA 10Y: -1bp, POR 10Y: -5bp). On FX markets, the USD appreciated against the euro, despite dovish statements by William Dudley (FOMC member) that pointed out that turbulence on financial markets, modest global growth, energy prices and macro-prudential imbalances could slow down the process of tightening the monetary conditions (EUR: -0.33%). Meanwhile, EM currencies depreciated against USD (RUB: -1.7%, COP: -0.8%, CLP: -0.6%, MXN:-0.4%), above all those most linked to commodity prices, which continued last week's negative trend despite the positive surprise in China (Brent: -3.1%, WTI: -2.2%, copper: -1.6%).



ECB Thursday meeting

- At its 22 October meeting, we expect no change to the ECB's monetary policy stance. However, the central bank will reiterate its commitment to the full implementation of its measures and its readiness to do more, if needed, but it will also stress the need not to take premature decisions.
- Economic indicators in the eurozone over the last month have deteriorated somewhat, although we expect the euro area's recovery to have continued in the third quarter of the year at 0.4% QoQ. Inflation was -0.1% YoY in September, after +0.1% in August, due to heavier falls in energy prices for the fourth month in succession, whereas core inflation held stable at 0.9% YoY. Going forward, we continue to expect inflation to return towards the target level in the next two years, as does the ECB. Moreover, in the last few weeks, medium- to long-term inflation expectations have continued to improve, i.e. measured by the 5Y5Y swap, recovering levels close to 1.7%.
- Against this background, a large percentage of analysts expect that the ECB will signal another phase of quantitative easing before the end of the year. Until now, the ECB has signalled that it prefers not to take premature decisions. Moreover, several ECB governing council members have stated that it is too early to fully judge whether more easing is needed. Nevertheless, the central bank has continued to underline that the PSPP is flexible enough to be adapted if needed, emphasising that appropriate communication of monetary policy remains essential. In this context, while uncertainty is high and risks remain on the downside, and assuming that growth in China and major emerging markets stabilises (our baseline scenario) as does the turbulence in financial markets, we are standing by our central scenario of there being no changes to the ECB purchasing programme.

Update 17.00 CET 19 October, 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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