

Market Comment | USD appreciated as ECB and Fed policy divergences increased

Global Financial Markets Unit 04 Nov 2015

- Positive macroeconomic data in the US. The US ADP employment change dropped less than expected in October (by 8K to 182K; consensus: 180K; previous data as revised: 190K). On another front, the ISM non-manufacturing composite index surged in October against estimates of decreasing (+2.2 points to 59.1; consensus: 56.5).
- Janet Yellen hawkish speech raised the likelihood of a rate-hike at December's FOMC meeting. "I see the U.S. economy as performing well," "Domestic spending has been growing at a solid pace" and if the data continue to point to growth and firmer prices, a December rate hike would be a "live possibility," she said.
- Draghi reinforced the ECB's dovish tone. Yesterday, Mario Draghi repeated that the ECB will be willing to act using all available instruments. He also highlighted the downside risk to the outlook for growth and inflation, which is due to the concerns over growth prospects in emerging markets. Against this backdrop, as he announced at the last Governing Council, "the degree of monetary policy accommodation will need to be reexamined in December's meeting". Also Mr. Coeure (member of the ECB's Governing Council) emphasized that "we have been specific about the downside risks in the scenario, particularly at the ECB's most recent meeting in Malta. The Governing Council saw an increased risk that inflation would stay too low for too long, and concluded that additional monetary policy reactions could be warranted, should this risk materialise."
- The final Eurozone PMIs for October were revised slightly downwards. The Markit eurozone composite PMI final for October dropped slightly, against estimates of remaining unchanged, although the October print remained above September's (by 0.1 to 53.9; BBVAe and consensus: 54.0, preliminary 54, September 53.6). The services PM also dropped unexpectedly (by 0.1 points to 54.1; BBVAe and consensus: 54.2, September 53.7). By country, the German composite PMI was the only one that disappointed, while the prints for France, Italy and Spain were all better than expected.
- USD appreciated as the probabilities of further monetary policy divergences increased. The release of fresh positive macroeconomic data in the US and the reinforcement of the dovish tone that Draghi exhibited at the last Government Council increased the probabilities of further monetary divergences in the coming months. On the one hand, as the ECB message remained unaltered it increased the probability of an extension of the bank's QE in December; on the other hand, the positive US prints boosted the probability of a Fed lift-off in December (as implied in the fed fund futures) to 56%. Against this backdrop, US treasury yields rose higher in the short-term tenor, which are more linked to the monetary policy (2Y: +4bp, 10Y: +2bp), while European safe-haven yields remained unchanged (GER 10Y: +2bp, FRA 10Y: +1bp). Peripherala showed a mixed performance today (ITA 10Y: 0bp, SPA 10Y:+1bp, POR 10Y: -4bp). On the equity markets, European indices rebounded with the exception of DAX, where the index was dragged down by Volkswagen's plunge (-8.0%), hampered by the emissions



scandal (Euro Stoxx: +0.4%, DAX: -0.5%, IBEX-35: +0.9%, CAC: +0.8%). In the same vein, Asian markets surged (Nikkei: +1.30%, Shanghai: +4.31%), due to the President Xi Jinping announced that China's annual economic growth rate over the next five years will not be less than 6.5 percent, However, the US equity indices were falling slightly at the time of writing (S&P 500 and Dow: -0.2%), despite the better-than-expected macroeconomic data. On FX markets, the USD appreciated against other major currencies (EUR: -0.89%, GBP: -0.25%, JPY: -0.44%) in line with the increase in the probability of the Fed tightening in December. This also weighed on the EM currencies' depreciation against the USD (COP: -0.9%, BRL: -0.8%, MXN: -0.7%, RUB: -0.6%), also dragged by the renewed decline in oil prices, which dropped after yesterday's rebound due to the increase in weekly oil supplies (Brent: -2.3%, WTI: -1.9%), while the copper price rose slightly (+0.6%).

Update 17.00 CET 04 November, 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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