

# Market Comment | European Equity and bond markets rally on further ECB stimulus hopes

Global Financial Markets Unit  
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- **Draghi says that the bank will do what it must to boost inflation.** The ECB President, Mario Draghi, said that "If we conclude that the balance of risks to our medium-term price stability objective is skewed to the downside, we will act by using all the instruments available within our mandate". He also added that "If we decide that the current trajectory of our policy is not sufficient to achieve our objective, we will do what we must to raise inflation as quickly as possible". **In contrast, the ECB's Weidmann plays down the need for further easing.** The governing council member, Jens Weidmann, said that "I see no reason to talk down the economic outlook and paint a gloomy picture". On the possibility of further measures, he said that "We should also not forget that the monetary policy measures already taken still need time to fully feed into the economy". He added that "The longer we stay in ultra-loose monetary policy mode, the less effective this policy will become and the more the attendant risks and side-effects will come into play".
- **Mixed data in the Eurozone.** Eurozone consumer confidence rose in November more than expected (by 1.6 points to -6.0; BBVAe: -7.9, consensus: -7.5). On another front, German PPI dropped in October more than expected (by -0.4% MoM and -2.3% YoY; consensus: -0.2% MoM and -2.0% YoY).
- **Markets showed the remains quiet despite the terrorist threats.** Europe's ongoing state of alert due to terrorist threats after the events in Paris has had only mild effects on markets (and these were focused on specific equity sectors, such as tourism), while more time will be needed to assess the impact on confidence indices. On another front, the release of ECB and Fed minutes confirmed the divergence between their respective monetary policies. Although discrepancies between Fed members suggest that the interest rate normalisation process would be very gradual, the ECB president, Mario Draghi, sounded more dovish this week, indicating that "we will do what we must to raise inflation as quickly as possible". Bond markets also reflected the divergences between monetary policies. The 2Y yield spread between the US and Germany widened by 7 bp to (127.5 bp), as a result of an increase of the 2Y US yield (+5bp) and the decline of the 2Y German yield to a new record low (-2 bp to -0.39%). On the other hand, long-term bond yields fell across the board. The sharp falls in European yields underscored the expectations of ECB's further easing (US 10Y: -3bp, GER 10Y: -11bp, FRA 10Y: -7bp, ITA 10Y: -8bp, SPA 10Y: -16bp, POR 10Y: -29bp). European peripheral risk premia narrowed, mainly in Portugal, offsetting last week's increase (SPA: -8bp, POR: -20.5bp). Lower yields boosted equity markets, which rose across the board (S&P 500: +3.6%, Nikkei: +1.4%, Euro Stoxx: +3.1%, IBEX-35: +2.4%, CAC: +2.5%, DAX: +4.2%). Nonetheless, concerns about further possible terrorist attacks had an effect, both travel and leisure sectors. On FX markets, the USD appreciated this week against other major currencies, especially the euro, underpinned by the aforementioned increase in the 2Y yield spread (EUR: -0.78%, JPY: -0.11%). However, EM currencies showed some relief, appreciating against the dollar (RUB: +3.1%, BRL: +3.6%, MXN: +1.2%, COP: +1.2%, TRY: +1.4%) and recovering slightly after last week's plunge. Meanwhile, commodity prices showed a mixed performance although they still draw a dismal picture, with the copper

price reaching its lowest level in six years (-3.6%) and some divergences in the oil price (Brent: +2.1%, but WTI: -1.0%), which was probably due to geopolitical factors.

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Table 1







\*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay

\*\*Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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