

Market Comment | Rebound in European equity market after yesterday's Wall Street gains

Global Financial Markets Unit
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- **Financial markets turmoil increases expectations of G-20 meeting**, which will take place in Shanghai on February 26-27. Ahead of the meeting the IMF has published a report in which it warns that the risk of economic recovery being derailed has increased, and it has urged broad-based and internationally coordinated policy response. The IMF recommends keeping accommodative monetary policies and giving fiscal policy more space in DMs. Fiscal buffers and exchange rate flexibility might be used by EMs to smooth the slowdown (see). US and Chinese economic leaders also support an expansion of monetary policy. However, disparate economic realities and a dysfunctional international financial system will limit the scope of commitments that can be achieved in Shanghai (see)
- **Positive durable goods orders in the US**. Durable goods orders surged in January (by 4.9% MoM; consensus: 2.9%), the improvement also was shown without transportation, increasing by 1.8% MoM (consensus: 0.3%). On the other hand, US jobless claims rose more than expected in the week ended 20 February (by 10K to 272K; consensus: 270K).
- **Dovish mood rules in Fed's members' tone. Robert Kaplan, head of the Dallas Federal Reserve**, warned about interest rate rises in a context of increasing external risks. He argued that the Fed could maintain the rates on hold for longer. The USD appreciation is also an important source of concern: "We have to be sensitive to the fact that the dollar, all things being equal, is going to tend to be stronger. We are going to have to be sensitive to the impact we have on that." In the same line, **St. Louis Fed President James Bullard** focused on the lack of inflation, saying "I regard it as unwise to continue a normalization strategy in an environment of declining market-based inflation expectations," and adding that the current 5y inflation break-even level "represents an erosion of central bank credibility with respect to the inflation target," **Dennis Lockhart, Atlanta Fed's president**, also pointed out that the FOMC will be dependent on data to continue with the process of interest rate normalization, while low energy prices and concerns about China outlook increase the complexity of decision making. He also warned about the health of the banking system in a context of increasing interest rates: "Rising rates will create challenges in managing net interest margins and risks."
- **Eurozone CPI final data in January was revised down unexpectedly**, increasing by 0.3% YoY (BBVAe and consensus: 0.4%) Household credit stood at 1.9% YoY in January, while non-financial corporate credit increased in January (0.4% YoY, previous 0% YoY). On another front, Spanish GDP 4Q15 final data confirmed growth of 0.8% QoQ.
- **Rebound in European equity market after yesterday's Wall Street gains**. Despite the new slump in China's equity market (Shanghai: -6.4% Shenzhen: -7.3%), the European equity markets were able to recover a large part of yesterday's slump, underpinned by yesterday's rebound in US market at the end

of the session - led by the rise in oil prices to a level close to US\$35 per barrel for Brent, on the back of EIA weekly data. The positive US new orders figures released today, and the dovish tone of Fed officials also encouraged the rebound in European equity indices (Eurostoxx: +1.9% IBEX: +2.4% DAX: +1.7% CAC: +2.2%). Nonetheless, yesterday's rally in the US equity market has faded today as the sharp fall in the Chinese equity market renewed concerns about the global outlook and financial stability (S&P and DJ: +0.1%). On bond markets, US treasury yields continued decreasing (2Y: -3bp 10Y: -5bp) helped by the dovish tone of some Fed members. Meanwhile, European yields remained almost unchanged across the board with the exception of Portugal (POR 10Y: -14bp), which declined, favoured by yesterday's approval of the 2016 budget. In FX markets, the USD showed a mixed performance against the other major currencies, (EUR: +0.18% GBP: +0.13% JPY: -0.36%). EM currencies appreciated against the US dollar, showing some rebound on Fed members' dovish comments (BRL: +0.5% MXN: +0.2% COP: +0.8% CLP: +0.6%), with the exception of Russian rouble (RUB: -0.5%), which was undermined by oil prices (Brent: -1.6% Wtx: -2.3%).

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Table1

*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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