

Market Comment | Risky assets supported by Fed's dovishness and oil price rebound

Global Financial Markets Unit
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- **Uncertainty in multiple fields extended Yellen's dovish tone and muted last week's hawkish comments from the Fed.** The Fed's policy stance remained dovish after Janet Yellen's cautious tone in yesterday's speech. Regarding domestic economy, she pointed out that since the turn of the year the readings have been somewhat mixed; she also anticipated that "the fallout for the U.S. economy from global market developments since the start of the year will most likely be limited, although this assessment is subject to considerable uncertainty". Nonetheless, the latest global developments affected the market's forecast for US rates, and she also remarked that "the return to 2 percent inflation could take longer than expected and might require a more accommodative stance of monetary policy than would otherwise be appropriate". In conclusion - in Yellen's words - : **"The future path of the federal funds rate is necessarily uncertain, because economic activity and inflation will likely evolve in unexpected ways"**.
- **Positive ADP data in the US.** According to US ADP employment data, private jobs increased in March above expectations (by 200K; consensus: 195K; previous: 205K), which bodes well for March's payrolls.
- **Mixed data in Europe.** Euro zone consumer confidence final data confirmed the decrease in March (to -9.7 points from -8.8), while economic confidence dropped against estimates of its remaining unchanged (to 103.0 from 103.9). German CPI harmonized preliminary data in March increased, turning to positive territory by more than expected (by 0.1% YoY; consensus: 0.0%, previous: -0.2%).
- **Benoît Cœuré denies "helicopter money" discussion.** The ECB's Benoît Cœuré sought to dispel rumours about the possibility of financing economic agents directly to reach the ECB targets. About this issue Coeuré said that "As a policymaker, as interesting as it may be, helicopter money is not currently part of the discussion in the Governing Council." In addition, he talked about negative interest rates in Europe, "Negative interest rates are not our main instrument, they just support our overall policy."
- **Risky assets supported by Fed's dovishness and oil price rebound.** The cautious tone of yesterday's speech by Janet Yellen has been the main driver in financial markets during the last hours. Global risky assets have benefited from yesterday's dovish stance, but the US dollar and the US curve registered the sharpest movements yesterday: the US dollar depreciated strongly, breaking through the 1.13 EUR/USD threshold, and yields dropped across tenors (UST 2Y and 10Y USD: -6 bps). The US Equity indices also benefited yesterday from the increasing expectations of low interest rates for a longer period (S&P: +0.9% DJ: +0.6%). Today, the US dollar is currently extending its depreciation trend, while US yields (5Y: +3 bps 10Y: +4 bps) are bouncing back, supported by increasing inflationary expectations in the US (5Y5Y inflation expectations: 2.1%), underpinned by the rebound in oil prices (Brent: +2.1% WTx: +2.0%), boosted by smaller-than-expected US oil inventories and the repricing effect of the US dollar depreciation. Meanwhile European yields remained almost unchanged, but with the peripheral risk premium narrowing (ITA: -5 bps SPA: -4 bps). Global equity markets rose today as a result of the Fed's

dovish stance and the rebound in oil stocks (Eurostoxx: +1.3% IBEX: +0.7% DAX: +1.7% CAC: +1.8% S&P: +0.5% Dow: +0.5%). Better than expected ADP employment also helped the US equity market to extend yesterday's gains. On FX markets, the USD depreciated against other major currencies especially those linked to oil (EUR: +0.38% GBP: +0.1% JPY: +0.11% CAD: +1.07% NOK: 1.30%) while EM currencies appreciated against the US dollar (RUB: +1.0% BRL: 0.6% COP: 1.2% MXN: 0.6% CLP: +1.2%) taking advantage of the rebound in commodity prices.

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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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