

Market Comment | BoE signals looser policy while ECB worries about shrinking eligible debt

Global Financial Markets Unit
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- **Main financial assets continue steady as Brexit volatility gradually fades.** The effect of the huge financial downturn caused by the Brexit referendum result in the latter part of last week and the beginning of this week has been fading. Some financial assets recovered significant ground after recent drops, while others even recovered completely, as is the case of the FTSE 100. The main exceptions have been UK assets, which reacted to hints at easing in coming months: the GBP depreciated strongly against the USD and gilt rates again broke record low rates. **Bank of England governor Mark Carney hinted at easing over the summer to handle the effects of the Brexit** referendum. He said that the BoE “can be expected to take whatever action is needed to support growth.” Despite the relative calm, the uncertainty regarding i) the future relationship between the UK and the EU and ii) the internal political uncertainty in the UK remain as a burden for the recovery of investor’s confidence. Furthermore, the Brexit decision (and its consequences, at least in the short term) could cause side effects in the stance of other central banks. Today, according to Reuters agency, sources close to **PBoC said that the USD/CNY exchange rate could continue its current downward path of depreciation against the USD** (the CNY depreciated around 2% against the USD during last month). The source also said that the cross rate could end the current year hovering around 6.8 USD/CNY to support growth in a challenging environment regarding trade relations. The management of exchange rate in China was in the spotlight early this year, in the context of the increasing likelihood of a potential currency war. If flexibility in the CNY is confirmed, volatility could hit financial markets again.
- In bond markets, safe-haven yields remained stable today (with the exception of the UK) while peripheral yields dropped on the back of the **ECB's admission that they will probably not be able to maintain their key capital rule in ongoing purchase programs** "We are concerned about the shrinking pool of eligible debt" so peripheral countries will probably benefit from any increasing purchases (SPA 10Y -9bps ITA 10Y -11bps POR 10Y -8bps).
- Equity indices continued their upward trend, (S&P: +0.9% Eurostoxx: +1.1%) favoured by better-than-expected economic indicators despite the poor performance of the European (mainly peripheral) banking sector. Merkel, in line with Coeuré’s comments, showed her opposition to an Italian bail-out of the banking sector. It triggered falls in Italian banking sector stocks, and the effect spread through peripherals banks. EM Currencies remained almost unchanged despite the fall in oil prices, which however remained above the US\$50 threshold.

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Table 1

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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