

# Market Comment | Market volatility surges ahead of upcoming events

Global Financial Markets Unit  
26 Sep 2016

- **This week started with a significant increase in market volatility (V2X +20%, VIX +15%).** The banking sector triggered a negative mood in financial markets, despite the unexpectedly positive confidence data in Germany (IFO: 109.5, previous 106.2). US politics was another source of volatility, with **the focus this week shifting from monetary policy towards US presidential politics**, despite the fact that a number of important FOMC members are set to speak this week. Tonight, the first debate will be held between US presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, with the potential to tip the scales of the US presidential elections, as the tightening of the polls increases.
- Moreover, **oil prices rose significantly (WTx +3.2%, Brent +2.9%)** amid today's start of the 15th International Energy Forum in Algiers and ahead of the informal OPEC meeting scheduled for Wednesday. In the past few weeks a barrage of **news encouraged speculation about a potential agreement to cut or freeze oil output** in the above-mentioned OPEC meeting, which could involve participation by non-OPEC members such as Russia.
- **Negative mood in equity markets across the board driven by the EZ banking sector.** Deutsche Bank led the falls in European equities, owing to expectations of a capital increase raise after the US Justice Department imposed a US\$14 billion fine on Deutsche Bank last week, and Chancellor Merkel ruled out any aid to the bank. Nonetheless, the bank has denied any plans for capital increases. The sell-off drove the bank's stock to its lowest level in more than 20 years (-7.5% to 10.55 EUR), and put the European banking sector under the spotlight. The increase in risk aversion ahead of political events dragged down European indices (Euro Stoxx -1.9%, DAX -2.2%, IBEX -1.3%), which did not benefit from the rebound in oil prices. US shares also went down (S&P500 -0.7%).
- The increase in equity volatility, favoured flows into bond markets, and **sovereign bond yields went down across the board** (10YUS -4 bps, 10YGER -3 bps, 10YFRA -3 bps, 10YSPA -5 bps, 10YITA -3 bps). Despite the upsurge of volatility there was no significant increase in peripheral premiums.
- In FX markets, **the USD continued its depreciation trend against its main peers**, suffering the effects of keeping interest rates unchanged in the last FOMC meeting (EUR +0.3%, GBP +0.05%, JPY +0.64%). EM currencies registered mixed performances (TRY -0.3%, BRL +0.5%, RUB +0.3%, MXN -0.2%, COP -0.2%). The rebound in oil prices contributed to pushing up the commodity-price sensitive currencies, while others such as the Turkish lira and the Mexican peso suffered the effect of idiosyncratic vulnerabilities. The former was hampered by Moody's downgrade of the country's credit rating to junk (one notch to Ba1 with a 'stable' outlook) due to: 1) the increase in risks related to the country's sizeable external funding requirements, and 2) the weakening in previously supportive credit fundamentals, particularly growth and institutional strength. The latter continues to suffer from the political uncertainty in the US as the latest set of polls show a narrow margin between the main political candidates.

Update 17.45 CET 26 September, 2016  
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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