

War in Ukraine: Europe's economic policy response will be key

The war in Ukraine is shaking up financial markets and the global economic outlook. Some transmission channels of the conflict to the economy are already identifiable: (i) a certain tightening of financial conditions (Chart 1), which accompanies the strong turbulence observed on the markets (ii) a sharp increase of various commodities prices (Chart 2) and (iii) an increase in uncertainties that will alter the decisions of economic actors. All in all, economic growth is likely to be lower than expected before the conflict and inflation significantly higher, particularly in the Euro area due to its geographical and commercial proximity. At this stage, however, a stagflation scenario, with zero or negative growth, does not seem to us to be the most likely scenario. Indeed, activity should continue to benefit from the easing of sanitary conditions, while households and companies still have healthy balance sheets that will allow them to absorb part of the shock. However, the response of economic policies will be decisive, both in terms of the real support they provide and their ability to maintain the confidence of economic actors.

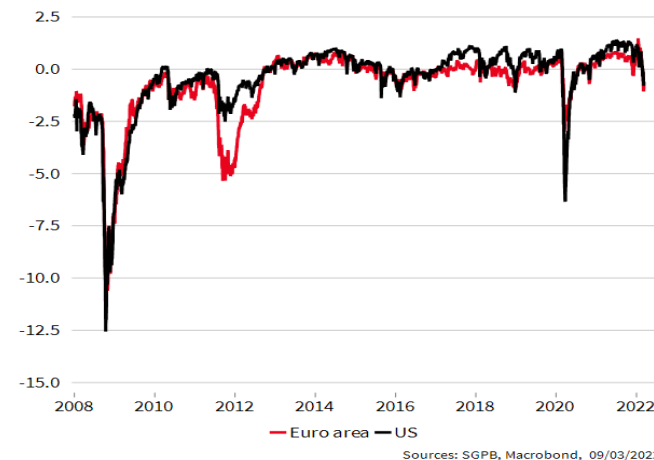
On the monetary policy side, the context of higher inflation and moderating economic activity complicates the task of central banks. The European Central Bank seems inclined to continue the normalization of its policy already announced. The new wave of inflation to come in the Euro area will nevertheless remain mainly caused by a negative supply shock and will be more penalizing for economic activity.

On the fiscal policy side, the management of the COVID crisis has already led to a sharp increase in government debt and seems to leave less room for maneuver. However, various recent announcements point to a potentially significant and common support to all Euro area countries. On March 8, the European Commission announced a plan to counteract rising energy prices. This plan contains a short-term component in which the Commission authorizes member states to subsidize energy prices for households and businesses, while it will set up community funds to finance these subsidies. The second part consists of an investment plan in the energy sector that aims to reduce energy dependence on Russia by 60% by the end of the year. In addition, significant military spending has been announced by the states. By increasing aggregate demand, this new spending should further support the Euro area economies.



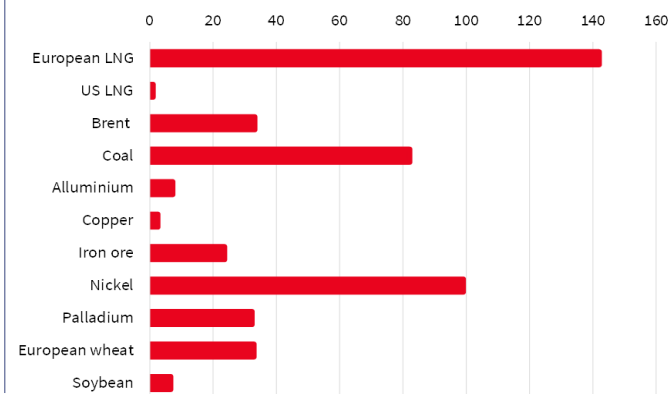
Tightening financial conditions

Euro area & United States: financial conditions index



Explosion of commodity prices since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine

Change in commodity prices, since February 20, 2022



Past performance should not be seen as a guarantee of future returns.

All data taken from Bloomberg, Macrobond, (10/03/2021). In accordance with the applicable regulation, we inform the reader that this material is qualified as a marketing document. CA012/H1/2021

OUR MACRO COMMENTS

Events of the week



The United States announced on Tuesday the implementation of an embargo on Russian hydrocarbons. Major US equity indices ended in the red on the day of the announcement, fearing a rebound in energy prices. It should be noted, however, that the United States is only 3% dependent on Russian oil and is independent of its gas supply.



The London Metal Exchange (LME) saw the price of nickel increase by 250% in two days earlier this week. As a result, on Tuesday, the LME decided on an exceptional measure: to suspend trade in nickel, the metal price exceeding the symbolic threshold of \$100,000 per ton.

Figures of the week



- Interest rates
- Deposit facility rate
- GDP (in year on year variation, Q4)



- Inflation (in year on year variation, February)
- Core inflation (in year on year variation, February)



- Industrial production (in year on year variation)



- GDP (in quarter on quarter variation, Q4)



- Inflation (in year on year variation, February)

	Current	Consensus	Previous
Interest rates	0% →	0%	0%
Deposit facility rate	-0.5% →	-0.5%	-0.5%
GDP (in year on year variation, Q4)	4.6% →	4.6%	4.6%
Inflation (in year on year variation, February)	7.9% ↑	7.9%	7.5%
Core inflation (in year on year variation, February)	6.4% ↑	6.4%	6.4%
Industrial production (in year on year variation)	2.3% ↑	1.9%	0.4%
GDP (in quarter on quarter variation, Q4)	1.1% ↓	1.4%	1.3%
Inflation (in year on year variation, February)	0.9% →	0.8%	0.9%

The week ahead

Tuesday



Retail sales (February)



Unemployment (January)



ZEW Survey on Economic Sentiment (March)

Wednesday



Retail sales (February)



Interest rates

Thursday



Inflation (February)



Interest rates



Inflation (February)

Friday



Interest rates

Sources : Bloomberg, on January 14th, 2022.

MARKETS PERFORMANCE

Interbank rate	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
€STER O/N	-0,58	-0,58	-0,58	-0,59	-0,56
USD SOFR O/N	0,30	0,05	0,05	0,05	0,02
JPY TONAR O/N	-0,01	-0,01	-0,02	-0,02	-0,01
GBP SONIA O/N	0,44	0,45	0,05	0,19	0,05
CHF O/N	-0,78	-0,78	-0,78	-0,78	-0,80

Long term sov. rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
10Y OAT	0,65	0,47	0,04	0,20	-0,06
10Y Bund	0,17	-0,04	-0,38	-0,21	-0,30
10Y BTP	1,68	1,55	1,03	1,17	0,68
10Y JGB	0,16	0,13	0,05	0,07	0,12
10Y Bonos	1,14	0,99	0,41	0,56	0,35
10Y Swiss	0,25	0,08	-0,29	-0,13	-0,26
10Y Gilt	1,56	1,27	0,76	1,02	0,72
10Y USTnote	1,94	1,86	1,52	1,52	1,53

Credit & EM	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
EUR Corporate Aaa	1,00	0,81	0,27	0,33	0,12
EUR Corporate Baa	1,60	1,35	0,58	0,66	0,51
GBP Corporate Baa	2,43	2,07	1,24	1,52	1,10
USD Corporate Aaa	2,91	2,80	2,18	2,13	2,19
USD Corporate Baa	3,67	3,46	2,64	2,60	2,53
USD EM aggregate	5,64	5,81	4,52	4,33	3,98

Commodities	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
Brent, USD/BL	111,99	-2,3%	47,4%	41,7%	64,3%
Or, USD/oz	1 991	3,3%	11,7%	8,9%	15,4%
Copper, USD/metric ton	10 065	-1,5%	5,3%	4,0%	12,9%
Platinum, USD/onz	1 115	4,8%	15,8%	15,3%	-4,5%
Palladium, USD/onz	3 018	13,8%	63,7%	52,6%	31,2%
Silver, USD/onz	26,18	4,4%	16,7%	13,4%	2,1%

FX rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
EUR/USD	1,10	-1,0%	-2,7%	-2,9%	-7,6%
EUR/CHF	1,02	0,2%	-2,1%	-1,2%	-7,6%
USD/GBP	0,76	1,2%	0,4%	2,9%	5,7%
USD/JPY	115,81	0,2%	1,7%	0,6%	6,6%
USD/BRL	4,99	-3,3%	-10,0%	-10,4%	-13,4%
USD/CNY	6,32	-0,1%	-0,4%	-0,5%	-2,9%
USD/RUB	119,89	14,8%	62,7%	59,9%	62,6%

Equity indices	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M
MSCI AC World (USD)	1 101	-2,2%	-2,8%	-5,2%	3,6%
Eurostoxx 50	3 766	-1,4%	-11,0%	-12,4%	-1,4%
Dax 40	13 848	-1,1%	-11,7%	-12,8%	-4,8%
CAC 40	6 388	-1,7%	-8,9%	-10,7%	6,6%
FTSE 100	7 191	-3,2%	-2,0%	-2,6%	6,9%
SMI	11 493	-3,2%	-8,8%	-10,7%	5,3%
SP500	4 278	-2,5%	-9,0%	-10,2%	9,7%
TOPIX	1 759	-5,4%	-12,2%	-11,7%	-8,4%
iBovespa	113 900	-1,1%	5,4%	8,7%	1,0%
Hang Seng	20 628	-7,7%	-14,0%	-11,8%	-28,6%
Sensex 30	54 647	-1,5%	-6,8%	-6,2%	6,6%
MOEX	-	-	-	-	-
CSI 300	4 226	-7,7%	-15,4%	-14,5%	-15,5%

Source: Macrobond, on March 11th, 2022.

1wk = 1-week change, 3mth = 3-month change, 12mth = 12-month change, YTD = year-to-date change, YoY = year-on-year change, BAML = Bank of America Merrill Lynch, JPM = JP Morgan, IG = Investment Grade, EM = emerging markets. * Price return for MICEX equity index. Equities; total return in local currency. Government bonds = 3-7-year returns. Figures are rounded.

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