



Wednesday, April 26, 2018

De Galhau: EU needs to stress test non-bank liquidity

Central bankers and regulators globally should step up their focus on liquidity risks in the non-bank financial sector, François Villeroy de Galhau, governor of the Banque de France, has said. He said the EU needs to implement the policy recommendations of the Financial Stability Board on stress testing non-banks' liquidity risks. (www.centralbanking.com 25/04/18)

ECB expected to take confident tone despite slowing economy

The ECB is set to keep policy unchanged at its monetary meeting on Thursday, playing down worries over recent softness in the eurozone economy and leaving the door open to ending its bond purchase scheme by the close of the year. Having tweaked its guidance last month to reflect solid growth, it might argue that the economy is humming along and that the exceptional readings seen around the turn of the year were always unlikely to be sustained, economists said. (www.reuters.com 25/04/18)

US consumers more confident in economy

Americans' spirits rose this month after dipping earlier this spring, suggesting they remain confident in the economy despite rising inflation and stock-market gyrations. The Conference Board says its index of consumer confidence rose 1.7 points from March to 128.7 in April. (www.wsj.com 25/04/18)

Italy's consumers, business confidence decreases in April: ISTAT

Italy's consumer confidence has decreased marginally after strengthening in March. The consumer confidence index fell to 117.1 in April from March's 26-month high of 117.5. The composite business confidence index fell to 105.1 in April from 105.9 in March. (www.xinhuanet.com 24/04/18)

France consumer sentiment improves in April

France consumer confidence improved unexpectedly in April, survey data from the statistical office Insee showed on Wednesday. The consumer sentiment index rose to 101 in April from 100 in March. The reading was expected to remain unchanged at 100. Households were almost as optimistic as in March about their expected financial situation. (www.rttnews.com 25/04/18)

Germany: Getting into trade conflict with US would be careless

German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier has said it would be negligent to end up in a trade conflict with the US, which has imposed tariffs on imports of steel and aluminium from some countries. Speaking just days before Chancellor Angela Merkel travels to Washington to hold talks with US President Trump on the issue, Altmaier said, "I remain convinced that it would be careless to stumble into a trade conflict. (www.reuters.com 25/04/18)

British 'bad bank' sells \$7.4bn of mortgages to Barclays consortium

UK Asset Resolution, the British 'bad bank' set up to manage the assets of two failed lenders, has sold two portfolios of residential mortgages to an investor group led by Barclays, boosting the public purse by £5.3bn. (www.reuters.com 26/04/18)

Poland unemployment rate fell less than expected in March

Poland's unemployment rate decreased less than expected in March, data from the Central Statistical Office show. The jobless rate dropped to 6.6% in March from 6.8% in the previous month. The rate was forecast to fall to 6.5%. (www.rttnews.com 25/04/18)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3929	(1.3946)	1.3961	(1.3979)
+USD/EUR	1.2174	(1.2202)	1.2195	(1.2226)
*GHS/USD	4.4036	(4.4035)	4.4080	(4.4079)
*GHS/GBP	6.1399	(6.1473)	6.1478	(6.1556)
*GHS/EUR	5.3661	(5.3787)	5.3702	(5.3836)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 26/04/18 (Rates for 25/04/18 in brackets)

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Austria production index climbed in Feb. from a year ago

Austria's production index expanded in Feb. from a year ago, data from Statistics Austria shows. The production index that combines output of industry and construction advanced 5.1% year-over-year in Feb. Industrial output grew 4.6% over the year and construction output rose by 7.6% on a monthly basis. (www.rttnews.com 25/04/18)

Swiss investor confidence weakest since late 2016

Switzerland's investor confidence deteriorated further in April, survey data from the investment bank Credit Suisse and the CFA Society Switzerland show. The Credit Suisse CFA Society Switzerland indicated that the expectations of financial analysts for the economy in the coming six months fell to 7.2 points from 16.7 in March. (www.rttnews.com 25/04/18)

European shares fall as bond yields rise, metals prices slide

Worries over rising bond yields and falling metals prices trumped well-received earnings updates from Kering and Credit Suisse, sending European shares to a one-week low. The pan-European STOXX 600 index was down 0.8% at its lowest in a week. Germany's DAX fell 1%. Concern remained over higher bond yields after the yield on the US 10-year Treasury breached 3% level on Tuesday. (www.reuters.com 25/04/18)

South Africa's rand, bonds hit hard as dollar rally continues

South Africa's rand tumbled to its weakest in more than three months while bonds also slipped, as a rally in the dollar and US Treasuries coupled with rising geopolitical tension battered emerging currencies. At 1220 GMT, the rand was down 1.38% at 12.5000 per dollar, its weakest since Jan. 10, having hit a session-low of 12.5325 as a wave of risk-off sentiment wreaked havoc on emerging market currencies. (www.af.reuters.com 25/04/18)

Uganda welcomes law to have single E. African currency

Uganda has welcomed a new law passed by the East African Legislative Assembly to pave the way for the formation of a regional central bank and currency. The East African Community (EAC) Monetary Institute Bill, 2017 will allow the establishment of the East African Community Monetary Institute, a transitional institution for the ultimate establishment of the East African Community Central Bank. The EAC members are Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. (www.xinhuanet.com 26/04/18)

Kenya economy seen rebounding after election slowdown

Kenya's economy is expected to rebound to 5.8% growth in 2018 after electoral uncertainty and drought cut last year's expansion to the lowest level in more than five years, Finance Minister Henry Rotich has said after electoral uncertainty and drought cut last year's expansion to the lowest level in more than five years. (www.reuters.com 25/04/18)

Bank of Ghana looks for 'smooth' transition to higher capital requirements

The Bank of Ghana is looking to ensure that all banks which come under its regulatory purview "smoothly" transition to new capital requirements by December 2018. Speaking on April 24, Second Deputy Governor Elsie Addo Awadzi explained measures that the central bank was implementing to ensure that the banking sector improves its protection of depositors. (www.centralbanking.com 26/04/18)

Ghana: March PPI inches down to 3.7%

The Producer Price Inflation (PPI) for March 2018 was 3.7%, representing a 1.8 percentage point decrease in producer inflation relative to 5.5% recorded in Feb. The month-on-month change in producer price index between Feb. 2018 and March 2018 was -0.3%. This rate indicates that between March 2017 and March 2018 (year-on-year), the PPI increased by 3.7%. (www.myjoyonline.com 22/12/15)

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