



Tuesday, 18th February 2025

Top European central bankers push for simpler rules for lenders

Four of the European Union's top central bankers urged the bloc's regulatory arm to simplify the mass of rules that commercial lenders blame for increasingly putting them at a disadvantage to international competitors. A "comprehensive analysis" of the requirements could help ensure a "level playing field with other major jurisdictions.

(www.bloomberg.com 18/02/25)

ECB rate-cut decisions getting harder

European Central Bank Governing Council member Robert Holzmann said decisions to continue lowering interest rates are becoming more difficult, according to Econostream.

(www.bloomberg.com 17/02/25)

The simple start to ending the EU security nightmare

US Vice President JD Vance's abrupt address to the Munich Security Conference on Friday certainly rattled European cages. The European Union needs to come together, fast, for its own self-preservation. (www.bloomberg.com 18/02/25)

Fed's Waller: Uncertainty over trade, other policies, shouldn't paralyze rate moves

Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller said his "baseline" view is that the Trump administration's new tariffs will have only a modest impact on prices that the central bank should try to look through in setting monetary policy. (www.bloomberg.com 17/02/25)

Trump tariffs won't easily derail Euro zone recovery

The euro zone is showing early signs of an economic recovery that is unlikely to be derailed by the tariffs the Trump administration has threatened thus far. But that doesn't mean European policymakers can let their guard down. (www.reuters.com 17/02/25)

UK pay growth, employment rise in resilience ahead of tax hike

UK pay growth picked up to its highest level in eight months and employment unexpectedly rose, as the jobs market appeared resilient to the Labour government's upcoming £26bn (\$32.8bn) increase in payroll taxes.

(www.bloomberg.com 18/02/25)

Bank of England's Bailey says inflation is slowing, 2025 jump will not last

Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said in an interview, published on Monday [17/02] that inflation was slowing and an expected pick-up in price growth later this year was unlikely to embed longer-term inflation pressures in the economy. Part of the forecast increase in inflation was due to regulated price increases - for items such as domestic energy and water.

(www.reuters.com 17/02/25)

Pound trades around two-month high as investors await data

Sterling held steady and traded at just below its highest level in two months, as investors looked towards employment and inflation data later in the week. The pound rose around 1.4% last week as currencies recovered against the dollar due to fading expectations that US President Donald Trump will sharply ramp up tariffs in the early days of his administration. Stronger-than-expected growth data also lifted the UK currency. (www.reuters.com 17/02/25)

French consumer inflation confirmed at +1.8% y/y in January

Consumer prices in France were up 1.8% year-on-year in January, statistics office INSEE said in line with analysts' expectations and the preliminary reading. Analysts in a Reuters poll had on average expected a preliminary EU-harmonised inflation figure of 1.8% in January.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2609	(1.2611)	1.2610	(1.2612)
+USD/EUR	1.0480	(1.0504)	1.0481	(1.0505)
*GHS/USD	15.4923	(15.4923)	15.5078	(15.5078)
*GHS/GBP	19.5342	(19.5373)	19.5553	(19.5584)
*GHS/EUR	16.2365	(16.2743)	16.2514	(16.2891)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/02/25 (Rates for 17/02/25 in brackets)

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RBA chief cautions against aggressive easing bets after rate cut

Australia's central bank cut interest rates for the first time in four years as price pressures cool while stressing it won't ease as aggressively as markets anticipate. The Reserve Bank lowered its cash rate by a quarter-percentage point to 4.1% in a widely expected decision while warning in its statement on Tuesday.

(www.bloomberg.com 18/02/25)

BOK in easing cycle to study sundry factors next week, Rhee says

The Bank of Korea remains in an easing cycle and authorities will review a variety of factors including the currency and economic momentum when they set interest rates next week, Governor Rhee Chang-yong said.

(www.bloomberg.com 18/02/25)

Rupee's dip cushioned by likely RBI intervention, forward premiums decline

The Indian rupee weakened slightly on Tuesday as the impact of weak regional currencies and heightened dollar demand spurred by positions in the non-deliverable forwards market was blunted by likely dollar-selling by the central bank. The rupee was at 86.9550 against the US dollar as of 10:50 a.m. IST, down from its close of 86.8775 in the previous session.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

South Korea plans record \$249bn trade policy financing to aid exporters

South Korea acting President Choi Sang-mok on Tuesday said the government plans to roll out a record 360tr won (\$249.3bn) worth of trade policy financing to aid exporters facing intensifying headwinds from US tariff policies. From now on, we will be making all-out efforts. The fortunes of each country will differ depending on how each responds to the trade war initiated by the US.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

Syria imports banknotes from Russia

According to media reports, Syria's new government has had to import banknotes from Russia as it tackles a cash crunch following the overthrow of former president Bashar al-Assad.

(www.centralbanking.com 17/02/25)

Europe stocks continue record run on defence sector boost

European shares rose to an all-time high on Tuesday as defence stocks continued to climb on the likelihood of increased military spending in the region, although a Capgemini-led drop in IT stocks capped the gains. The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.2% to a record of 555.42 points, with the aerospace and defence index jumping 1%.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

Oil inches up on Kazakhstan supply disruption

Brent crude oil prices advanced on Tuesday adding to gains in the previous session after a drone attack on an oil pipeline pumping station in Russia reduced flows from Kazakhstan, but gains were capped on the prospects of supply rising soon.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

Gold gains as US tariff uncertainty upholds safe-haven demand

Gold extended their gains on Tuesday, as uncertainty over US President Donald Trump's tariff plans continued to dominate market sentiment, driving safe-haven demand amid fears of a potential global trade war.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

South African rand weakens ahead of unemployment data

South Africa's rand weakened against a buoyant dollar, ahead of unemployment data due later in the day and a national budget speech on Wednesday. At 0739 GMT, the rand traded at 18.47 against the US dollar, about 0.5% weaker than its previous close.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

Nigeria inflation at 24.48% y/y in January after rebasing

Nigeria's headline inflation rate was at 24.48% year-on-year in January, its statistics agency said, after it rebased its Consumer Price Index to reflect changes in consumption patterns. When it announced the rebasing exercise last month, the National Bureau of Statistics said consumption patterns had changed significantly since the last rebasing.

(www.reuters.com 18/02/25)

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