



GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

HIGHLIGHTS

November 17, 2020

Global Markets

Asian bourses ended in positive territory today, taking their lead from record highs for the DJIA and the S&P 500 overnight, supported by more promising Covid-19 vaccine news. This time, Moderna announced that, based on preliminary results, its Covid-19 vaccine is a stunning 94.5% effective in preventing infection. However, investors seem concerned about the logistics challenges of a Covid-19 vaccination effort to the global population. Against this background, European bourses opened slightly lower and US stock futures point to a lower open in Wall Street later today, while losses for core fixed income markets were far less pronounced than last week, following the Pfizer's announcement. In FX markets, the EUR/USD remained stuck in the 1.1850 region, ahead of today's US retail sales and IP, both for October.

Greece

According to ELSTAT, for the total of enterprises in retail trade, the turnover in Q2-2020 amounted to €10.7 bn, recording a decrease of 17.8% in comparison with Q2-2019, when the respective turnover was €13.1 bn and a decrease of 4.0% in comparison with Q1-2020, when the respective turnover was €11.2bn. The activities that recorded the biggest annual increase in turnover in Q2-2020 are retail sale via mail order or Internet (+17.0%) and retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software in specialized stores (+4.2%). The activities that recorded the biggest annual decrease in turnover in Q2-2020 are retail sale of watches and jewelry in specialized stores (-69.2%) and retail sale of cosmetic and toilet articles in specialized stores (-55.8%).

CESEE

Hungary and Poland blocked yesterday the EU's EUR1.85th budget out of which EUR1.1trn pertains to the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework while the remaining EUR0.75bh refers to the Next Generation EU fund, engineered ad hoc to fight the negative repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic. The trigger point that led the leadership of the two countries in exercising their veto right, as they had both warned earlier, was the rule of law conditionality in order for EU members to access the budget funds. Since the decision to authorize the European Commission to issue the aforementioned unprecedented amounts of jointly backed debt requires unanimity, the vetoes were effective in freezing the whole procedure. The vetoes will be discussed at high-level meetings today and on Thursday.

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