

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

November 19, 2020

Global Markets

Investors retained a cautious stance on risk assets early today, as still rising infection rates and tighter Covid-19 measures in several regions around the world, canceled out y-day's more positive Covid-19 vaccine news. Pfizer and BioNTech reported that the final analysis of the Phase 3 trial showed that their vaccine was 95% effective, almost in line with Moderna's vaccine efficacy rate, and plan to submit "within days" an emergency authorization request from the FDA In FX markets, the EUR/USD retreated to the 1.1830/60 area after failing to break above 1.1900 y-day, while USTs and German Bunds were a tad weaker on the day, but still close to y-day's multi-session highs, on the prevailing view that major CBs are unlikely to shift to a less accommodative monetary policy stance, in spite of encouraging Covid-19 vaccine news.

Greece

The European Commission published yesterday its 8th Enhanced Surveillance Report for Greece. The report is positive overall, acknowledging however the severe downside risks to the outlook due to the pandemic, although funds from the Recovery and Resilience facility could support the economic recovery. On reforms, progress is found particularly in the insolvency framework, the human resources reform of the IAPR, the completion of the Treasury Single Account, the digital transformation of the public sector and the launch of the Target Model for the electricity market. On arrears clearance, the zero arrears target for the end of 2020 in all sectors except for pension claims has been confirmed by the authorities, but remains subject to risks.

CESEE

In the Alert Mechanism Report for 2021, released by the EC yesterday, Bulgaria will not be subject to an indepth analysis under the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (MIP) after the conclusion in the latest MIP report in February that the country no longer experiences imbalances. In November's Inflation Report, published yesterday, the NBS revised Serbia's projected GDP contraction for 2020 to -1.0% from -1.5% previously, broadly, on the back of faster than expected recovery of investments. All eyes today will be on the European Council's video conference, following the veto imposed by Hungary and Poland on Monday on the EU's EUR1.8trn budget, which is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2021, with all EU nations being in need of the allocated funds for increased health care demands and economic supportive measures.

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