



GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

HIGHLIGHTS

July 20, 2021

Global Markets

Risk-off mode prevailed in global markets on Monday, as increasing worries about the impact of the Delta variant on the global economic recovery drove global equities lower for the 5th consecutive session, the longest losing streak since the pandemic start. Safe-haven government bonds advanced with the 10-yr UST yield hovering around 5-month lows near 1.17% y-day, and the 2/10yr spread falling the most since early February, on fears for renewed lockdowns that led investors to push back the timing of future Fed Funds rate hikes. In FX markets, the JPY and the USD traded near multi month highs, while Brent oil prices stabilized around 67\$/bbl on Tuesday morning having dipped by ca. 7.5% y-day after the OPEC+ agreement. Asian shares extended their losses earlier today, while the 10-yr UST yield was trading higher near 1.20%.

Greece

According to the IMF Article IV Consultation Staff Report, public debt is projected to decline in the medium term but uncertainty is too high to allow for a firm conclusion on the sustainability of debt in the long term. External imbalances are significant and the pandemic could add further stress to bank and corporate balance sheets. Fiscal stimulus in 2022 should be more targeted and in line with an improvement in the fiscal policy mix in the medium term. Any over-performance caused by stronger than anticipated recovery, should be saved as a contingency buffer against future downside risks or contingent liabilities. On banks, the report views that 'Hercules' could reduce NPEs rapidly and stresses the importance of the Insolvency Code. Finally, the non-bank financial sector should be developed to support growth.

CESEE

Given the rather light economic calendar of the region during the current week, attention turns on the developments in the international relations and political front. As such, Bulgaria's President Rumen Radev will assemble tomorrow the newly-elected parliament following the July 11 snap general election in the effort to form a government. Turning to Serbia, President Aleksandar Vucic stated yesterday, after a new round of the EU-facilitated high-level talks, that the delegations of Serbia and Kosovo have failed to have a fruitful dialogue across all issues of the set agenda. On the data front, later today, the country's current account balance for May is due, while the respective figure for Bulgaria was released yesterday, pointing to some deterioration compared to the same period last year.

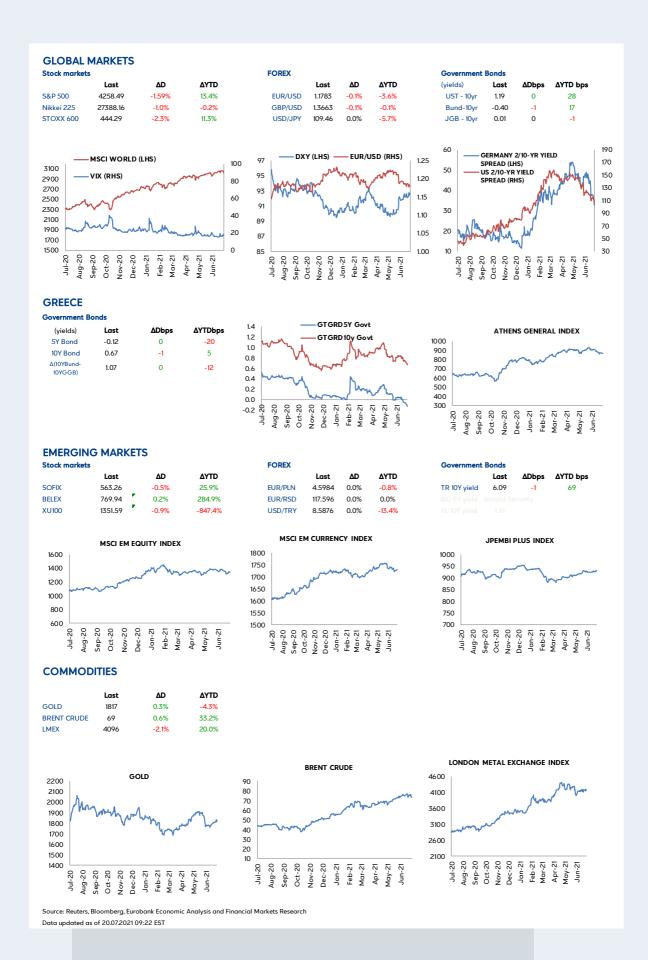
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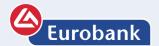
Olga Kosma Research Economist okosma@eurobank.ar

Anna Dimitriadou Economic Analyst andimitriadou@eurobank.gr Maria Kasola Economic Analyst mkasola@eurobank.gr











Research Team



Dr. Tasos Anastasatos | Group Chief Economist tanastasatos@eurobank.gr | + 30 214 40 59 706



Anna Dimitriadou Economic Analyst andimitriadou@eurobank.gr + 30 210 37 18 793



Ioannis Gkionis Senior Economist igkionis@eurobank.gr + 30 214 40 59 707



Dr. Stylianos Gogos Economic Analyst sgogos@eurobank.gr + 30 210 37 18 733



Maria Kasola Economic Analyst mkasola@eurobank.gr + 30 210 33 18 708



Olga Kosma Research Economist okosma@eurobank.gr + 30 210 37 18 728



Paraskevi Petropoulou Senior Economist ppetropoulou@eurobank.gr + 30 210 37 18 991



Dr. Theodoros Rapanos Economic Analyst v-trapanos@eurobank.gr + 30 214 40 59 711



Dr. Theodoros Stamatiou Senior Economist tstamatiou@eurobank.gr + 30 214 40 59 708



Elia Tsiampaou Economic Analyst etsiampaou@eurobank.gr + 30 214 40 59 712

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