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**Global markets**

According to the advance estimate, US real GDP increased by a lower-than-expected annual rate of 1.1% in Q1 2023, less than half the prior quarter's 2.6% pace, entirely driven by inventories which subtracted 2.3ppts from GDP growth. However, underlying details were still positive, as real final sales to domestic purchasers rose by a hefty 3.2% annual rate, up from 0.7% in the prior quarter. Market focus was also on inflation data, with core PCE prices rising by a higher than expected 4.9%, up from 4.4% in Q4 2022, leading to a slightly hawkish shift in market expectations over the Fed's policy path in the coming months. Amid strong real final sales and core PCE inflation data, USTs weakened, while a 16k drop in US jobless claims last week, to 230k, the first decline since the week ended March 31, also had an impact. Meanwhile, risk sentiment slightly improved, and the USD regained some ground, Brent crude prices recovered from yesterday's one-month lows and gold retreated from the psychologically important level of $2,000/oz.

**Greece**

The Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) improved to a 13-month high in Apri-23. Specifically, it registered a value of 108.8 (99.3 in the Euro Area), from 107.0 in Mar-23 (99.2 in the Euro Area). Regarding the 5 sub-indices that form the ESI, the results were as follows: the confidence indicator in industry improved marginally, whereas the respective indices in services and retail trade increased strongly. On the contrary, the confidence indicators in consumers and in construction deteriorated, with the latter index recording nevertheless its 3rd highest value during the last 18 months. In other news, according to Ergani (a database for the labour market), hirings were 250,239 in Mar-23, higher by 61,912 compared to departures. The respective balance a year ago (Mar-22) was at 34,373. Nearly half of the hirings in Mar-23 came from the tourism sector.

**CESEE**

In Hungary, in line with market expectations, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the National Bank kept the base rate unchanged at 13.0%. It also maintained the lower bound of the interest rate corridor (12.5%) but reduced the upper bound by a higher-than-expected 450bps to 20.5%. The narrowing of the interest rate corridor was justified based on the recent decline in the current account deficit and the normalisation of global energy prices, also reflected in the stabilization of inflation, albeit at high levels (ca 25% since December). In Turkey, the MPC kept the policy one-week repo rate on hold at 8.5% for the second consecutive month, also in line with the market consensus forecast. Expectations for no change in the key rate were shaped by the continuous downward pressures on the lira since its last cut (-7.0% since end February, also -37.4%YoY) and the Central Bank's measures to restrain it.

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