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## FX Daily

# How Has the World Changed from Yesterday?

### George Saravelos

Strategist  
 (+44) 20 754-79118  
 george.saravelos@db.com

The day so far has been dominated by risk reduction, but what is different from yesterday?

### The G20 Communiqué

More than 10 pages long, it is one of the longest in the history of G20 statements. The two key pieces of information for FX markets are:

-A more explicit framework and timeline to identify and address global imbalances. The G20 call on a "Framework Working Group" together with the IMF to develop indicative guidelines "with progress to be discussed... in the first half of 2011." The first such assessment will be undertaken during the French Presidency next year. This initiates a slow-moving, but coordinated discussion process and is positive for global economic governance. But tensions leading up to and around this meeting point to the challenges behind getting anything concrete out of this next year, and progress will be slow.

-A repeat of the commitment to avoid "excessive volatility and disorderly movements" and "refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies." The key piece of new news is that a tolerance for capital controls in EM is now implicitly acknowledged: "in circumstances where countries are facing undue burden of adjustment, policy responses in emerging market economies with adequate reserves and increasingly overvalued flexible exchange rates may also include carefully designed macro-prudential measures." This is a head-nod to Brazil and other EM countries that have been trying to deal with the influx of capital. At the very least, it means that the West will refrain from openly criticizing capital controls, so long as this is accompanied by EM tolerance for further currency appreciation. But it could mean that other EM countries are encouraged to follow suit.

### The European Finance Ministers Statement

This is arguably more important than the G20 in the near term, and was also released overnight by the German, French, Italian, Spanish and British finance ministers. It is a direct response to Eurozone peripherals turmoil, making the most explicit commitment yet that talk of an orderly crisis resolution scheme does not apply to current or issued debt up to 2013: "whatever the debate within the euro area about the future permanent crisis resolution mechanism and the potential private sector involvement in that mechanism we are clear that this does not apply to any outstanding debt and any programme under current instruments." This is good news for Eurozone peripheral bondholders. It does not remove long-term debt sustainability concerns, but it does remove a good deal of uncertainty surrounding the implications of current European discussions on orderly restructuring beyond 2013.

### Where does that leave us?

Even though the EU news has been positive, talk of further tightening from China and a sharp drop in Chinese equities has set a risk-reduction tone to the day. The market's largest positions have been hit: AUD and SEK are the worst performers in the G10, and \$/Asia is suffering from a broad sell-off. But looking ahead, the key thing to watch is whether the EU finance ministers' statement will be sufficient to reverse the collapse of peripheral Eurozone bond markets, and whether there any signs of the ECB stepping in with more aggressive purchases. Italy comes in with new bond supply at 10am, an auction which markets will pay attention given the new widens in Italian-German spreads yesterday.

For EUR/USD, 1.3550 is the medium-term level we have been mentioning over the last few days. In yesterday's FX weekly, we wrote that there are tentative signs of contagion, but this morning there are increasing signs of stress in both money markets and financials, with the EUR/USD basis, one of the key indicators we have been watching, significantly wider. A break below 1.35-1.3550 on the back of a failure of peripherals to stabilize would be a clear and significant setback to our view that EUR/USD will make new highs this year, exceeding the typical 3%-5% pullbacks. But if we hold and the week finishes on a more positive note for peripherals, buying EUR/USD with a tight stop below 1.35 looks tempting

[george.saravelos@db.com](mailto:george.saravelos@db.com)

Deutsche Bank AG/London

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Earlier this week we introduced two measures of systemic money market risk in the form of the EUR/USD basis as well as demand for euro liquidity in the ECB's weekly tenders. The basis remains well-behaved, but this Tuesday's ECB tenders saw higher than expected demand for cash and a modest move lower in EONIA rates. This may be distorted by the expiry of EUR 36bn of 6-month cash, and we will be watching the take-up in today's extraordinary 6-day bridging operation to gauge whether overall precautionary demand for euro cash is rising. We are also monitoring Eurozone financial stocks, swap spreads and the iTraxx financials index for signs of market stress beyond the periphery. All of these indicators saw some weakness as the peripheral sell-off accelerated yesterday afternoon, but remain within recent ranges providing tentative, if any, indications of market stress. In the meantime, we note that both Spanish and Italian sovereign spreads remain below their summer highs.

Overall, the evidence therefore still leaves us bullish EUR/USD for year-end, though admittedly we remain cautious on entering fresh longs over the next few days given the ongoing volatility in Eurozone peripherals. Our year-end view of new highs will be re-evaluated in the event that Spanish and Italian spreads start breaking out more significantly, or should we break 1.3550 levels to the downside. A break below there would exceed the typical 3%-5% corrections seen during EUR/USD uptrends, and would likely make the EUR/USD picture more technically challenging. [george.saravelos@db.com](mailto:george.saravelos@db.com).

# Appendix 1

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**David Folkerts-Landau**

Managing Director  
Global Head of Research

Stuart Parkinson Associate Director Company Research	Marcel Cassard Global Head Fixed Income Research
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Europe	Asia-Pacific	Germany	Americas
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**Principal Locations**

<p><b>Deutsche Bank AG London</b> 1 Great Winchester Street London EC2N 2EQ Tel: (44) 20 7545 8000</p>	<p><b>Deutsche Bank AG New York</b> 60 Wall Street New York, NY 10005 United States of America Tel: (1) 212 250-2500</p>	<p><b>Deutsche Bank AG Hong Kong</b> Level 55 Cheung Kong Center 2 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong tel: (852) 2203 8888</p>	<p><b>Deutsche Securities Inc. Japan</b> 2-11-1 Nagatacho Sanno Park Tower Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-6171 Tel: (81) 3 5156 6770</p>
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**Publication Address:**  
Deutsche Bank AG London  
1 Great Winchester Street  
London EC2N 2EQ  
United Kingdom  
(44) 20 7545 8000

**Internet:**  
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