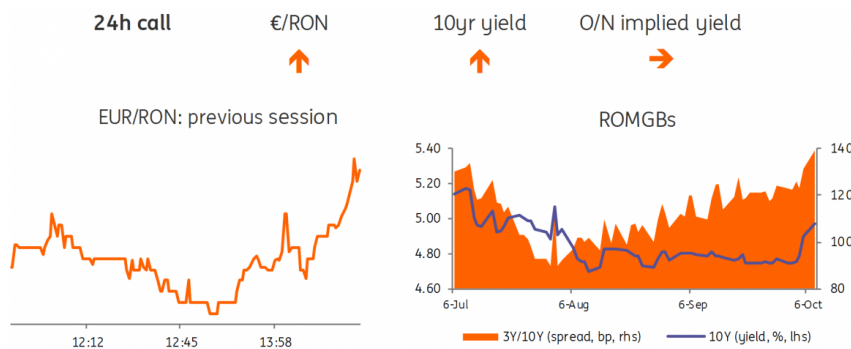


BriefING Romania

EUR/RON testing NBR's 'line in the sand'



EUR/RON

EUR/RON was fairly stable on Friday with clustered trading around 4.6700, supporting the suspicions about official offers on above-average turnover. Late buying interest pushed the currency pair towards 4.6750 in after hours. The National Bank of Romania might offer support to the Romanian leu for some time, but it is likely to allow a gradual depreciation if the emerging market backdrop remains negative. With negative sentiment prevailing on global markets today, we expect pretty much the same scenario and EUR/RON trading within 4.6650-4.6800 range.

In the US there are a number of Federal Reserve officials scheduled to speak this coming week, and we will be looking to see whether the risks appear skewed to the upside or the downside in terms

of Fed policy. For now, we think the risks are balanced, given some uncertainty is likely following the [mid-term elections](#). In the Eurozone, the minutes of the European Central Bank's September meeting should shed some light on the ECB's current thoughts on their path.

In Romania, we expect September CPI to decline by 0.4 percentage points to 4.7% year on year as the statistical base impact (last year saw an excise duty hike for fuel) more than offsets the recent increase in oil prices. This is in line with the latest National Bank of Romania forecast from August. With external backdrop not helping at all, we expect EUR/RON to trade with an upward bias, but it is hard to call the timing when the NBR will shift its comfort range higher. The possible range for the week: 4.6600-4.6800.

📈 Government bonds

ROMGBs sold-off on Friday with July-2027 yields closing c.15bps higher given the negative global sentiment and the expected supply on the primary market in the fourth quarter with an indicative announcement at RON13-15bn. MinFin auctions RON600m in June-2023 bonds today. Despite good buying interest on this segment of the yield curve recently, the external backdrop is not supportive at all. Hence, we could see an average yield near Friday's closing bid of 4.60% with the tail for the auction depending on the MinFin appetite to adjust the issuance relative to the demand. Given the context, the probability of partial allocation is fairly high.

➡ Money Market

The overnight implied yields continued to trade just below the central bank's key rate level on Friday. Given the current liquidity backdrop, the NBR announced that it is not organising open market operations today. The central bank's Monthly Bulletin showed that September daily average liquidity deficit for the banking system decreased by RON0.9bn to RON3.9bn.

EUR/RON forecasts and forwards

	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19
ING forecast	4.70	4.67	4.65	4.70	4.75
Forward rate	4.71	4.76	4.80	4.85	4.89

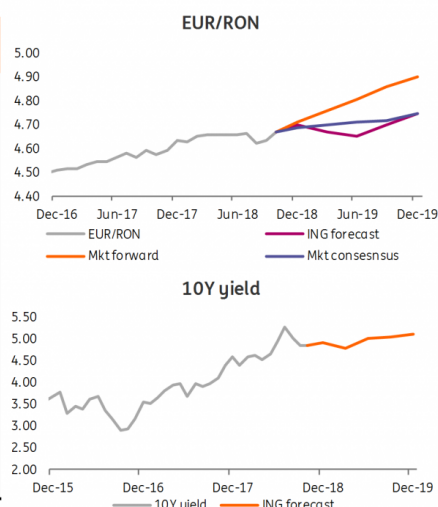
Source: Reuters, ING estimates

Market radar

	Spot	%Ch		
		1D	1W	1M
EUR/RON	4.667	0.1	0.4	0.5
EUR/PLN	4.3075	-0.1	0.6	-0.3
EUR/HUF	325.11	0.2	0.5	-0.3
EUR/CZK	25.765	-0.2	0.0	0.1
RO 5Y CDS*	96.65	0.2	0.4	4.6
ROBOR O/N*	2.53	-8.0	-17.0	6.0
ROBOR 3M*	3.33	0.0	-4.0	-2.0
DAX	12119	-0.9	-0.8	16
S&P 500	2885.57	-0.6	-0.4	0.8
DE 10Y*	0.554	2.7	8.0	20.4
US 10Y*	3.2328	3.2	17.7	35.6
Gold (US\$)**	1194.1	0.3	0.2	-0.5
Brent (US\$)**	83.33	-0.5	0.5	9.2

*change in basis points; **US\$ (data as at 08:12 GMT)

Source: Reuters, Bloomberg, ING



Author

Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania

valentin.tataru@ing.com

Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared by the Economic and Financial Analysis Division of ING Bank N.V. ("ING") solely for information purposes without regard to any particular user's investment objectives, financial situation, or means. *ING forms part of ING Group (being for this purpose ING Group N.V. and its subsidiary and affiliated companies)*. The information in the publication is not an investment recommendation and it is not investment, legal or tax advice or an offer or solicitation to purchase or sell any financial instrument. Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that this publication is not untrue or misleading when published, but ING does not represent that it is accurate or complete. ING does not accept any liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any use of this publication. Unless otherwise stated, any views, forecasts, or estimates are solely those of the author(s), as of the date of the publication and are subject to change without notice.

The distribution of this publication may be restricted by law or regulation in different jurisdictions and persons into whose possession this publication comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions.

Copyright and database rights protection exists in this report and it may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any person for any purpose without the prior express consent of ING. All rights are reserved. ING Bank N.V. is authorised by the Dutch Central Bank and supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM). ING Bank N.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands (Trade Register no. 33031431 Amsterdam). In the United Kingdom this information is approved and/or communicated by ING Bank N.V., London Branch. ING Bank N.V., London Branch is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. ING Bank N.V., London branch is registered in England (Registration number BR000341) at 8-10 Moorgate, London EC2 6DA. For US Investors: Any person wishing to discuss this report or effect transactions in any security discussed herein should contact ING Financial Markets LLC, which is a member of the NYSE, FINRA and SIPC and part of ING, and which has accepted responsibility for the distribution of this report in the United States under applicable requirements.

Additional information is available on request. For more information about ING Group, please visit <http://www.ing.com>.