

EMEA FX: Attention switches to Poland

After a year in which the Hungarian forint grabbed all the headlines for the wrong reasons, our EMEA team believe the market's attention will switch to Poland in 2023. Whether the central bank is right to close off its tightening cycle and whether Poland can negotiate access to all its EU funds in an election year will be a hot topic for FX markets



Krakow, Poland,
Christmas tree on Main
Market square

Source: Shutterstock

Main ING Emerging Market FX forecasts

	EUR/CZK		EUR/PLN		EUR/HUF
1M	24.50 →		4.78 ↑		400.00 ↑
3M	24.50 →		4.80 →		390.00 ↓
6M	25.00 ↓		4.70 ↓		380.00 ↓
12M	24.50 ↓		4.71 ↓		390.00 ↓

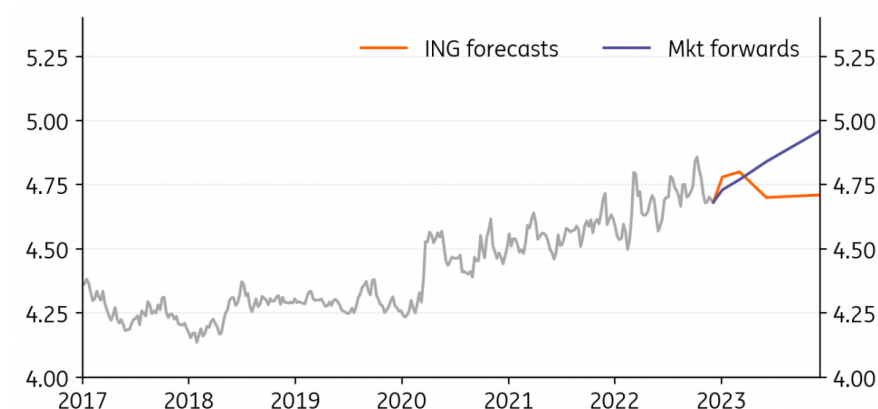
↑ / → / ↓ indicates our forecast for the currency pair is above/in line with/below the corresponding market forward or NDF outright

Source (all charts and tables): Refinitiv, ING forecast

EUR/PLN: Politics and NBP expectations to prevent further PLN gains

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
EUR/PLN	4.6930	Mildly Bullish 	4.78	4.80	4.70	4.71

- Near and medium-term prospects for the zloty are mildly negative. Not only there is very little hope for the National Bank of Poland (NBP) to restart its tightening cycle, but a collapse of household consumption in 3Q22 reanimated hopes for NBP monetary easing already next year. Still, the cost of financing positions against the zloty remains high, thus limiting the scope for zloty depreciation.
- General elections are scheduled for October 2023 with the risk of new spending a negative for Polish government bonds and the zloty. Also, investors seem optimistic about Poland accessing the Recovery Fund, but both the government and European Commission may not be all that willing to compromise prior to the elections in the autumn. On the other hand, opinion polls show rising support for the more EU-orientated opposition.

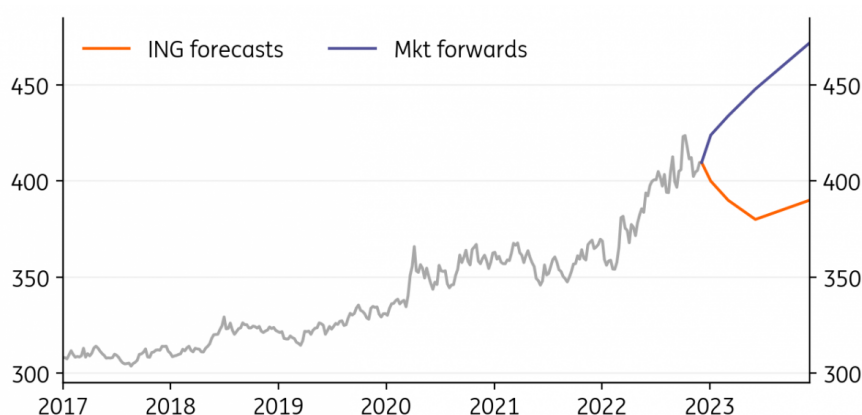


Source: Refinitiv, ING

EUR/HUF: The forint is our currency of choice in the CEE4 space

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
EUR/HUF	410.0000	Bearish ↘	400.00	390.00	380.00	390.00

- The forint is still more likely to be moved by non-monetary events and shocks in the short run. The recent complication over the Rule-of-Law decision and yet another warning signal from a rating agency caught up with HUF.
- We believe that the period of emergency National Bank of Hungary meetings is over, that the EU story is coming to a positive end, fiscal policy is pointing to tangible consolidation and that the current account deficit should come under control with a turnaround in CPI.
- Thus, we expect a gradual drift lower below 400 EUR/HUF in 2023. With Poland taking the baton of major market attention from Hungary next year, this makes the forint our currency of choice in the CEE4 space.



Source: Refinitiv, ING

EUR/CZK: No rush to do anything

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
EUR/CZK	24.2900	Neutral	24.50	24.50	25.00	24.50

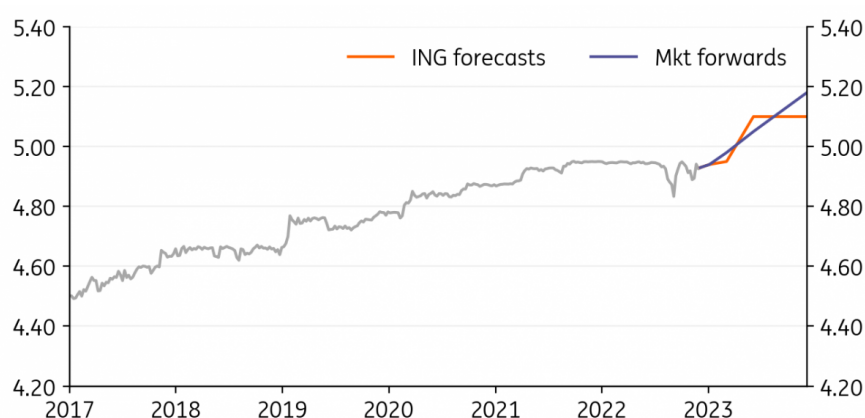
- According to official figures, the Czech National Bank (CNB) spent about €26bn (16% of FX reserves) on defending the koruna between May and October. According to our estimates, the central bank was not active in the market in November and December. Overall, the CNB remains in a very comfortable situation.
- Moreover, the artificial slowdown in inflation due to government measures in October, combined with data showing weakening domestic demand, is not pushing the CNB to make any move. Therefore, we do not expect any changes in interest rates or the FX regime anytime soon. We expect the first rate cut in 2Q23.
- Until then, we expect EUR/CZK to remain safely below the CNB's intervention level of 24.60-70 EUR/CZK.



EUR/RON: Well supported offer side

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
EUR/RON	4.9300	Neutral	4.94	4.95	5.10	5.10

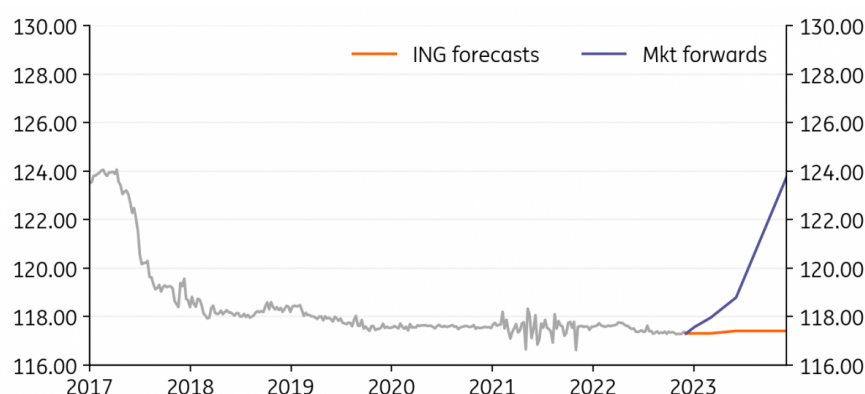
- As usual into the year-end, the accelerated Treasury spending has led to a much-improved liquidity situation. Thus, the banking system turned to a surplus of approximately RON5.4bn in November, from a deficit of more than RON4bn in October.
- Better liquidity prompted high carry rates to tank throughout November and likely December as well. In response to the surplus liquidity conditions, the National Bank of Romania seems to prefer FX interventions to deposit auctions for mopping up the excess liquidity.
- Given that commercial flows in December might be richer on the offer side, a year-end EUR/RON closer to 4.90 rather than 4.95 looks rather likely.



EUR/RSD: A new trading range setting-in close to 117.30

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
EUR/RSD	117.3000	Neutral	117.30	117.30	117.40	117.40

- The recently-decided Stand-By Arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will undoubtedly influence the monetary policy decision in the short to medium term.
- Reading through the lines of the official communication, we believe that the IMF is comfortable with the National Bank of Serbia (NBS) maintaining the current quasi-pegged dinar FX rate, but interest rates might need to be increased beyond what the NBS had in mind.
- We have already changed our terminal key rate estimation to 5.75% (to be reached in 1Q23). We maintain our year-end EUR/RSD forecast at 117.30 for 2022 and revise 2023 mildly to the upside, at 117.4.

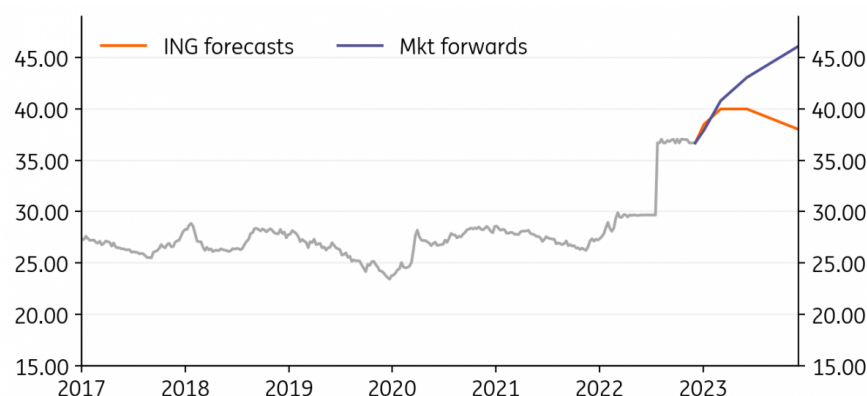


Source: Refinitiv, ING

USD/UAH: Massive external imbalance puts hryvnia at risk

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
USD/UAH	36.8400	Bullish ↗	38.50	40.00	40.00	38.00

- Ukraine continues to face a very high external imbalance. Central bank FX operations have decreased by around half since the July peak (US\$2bn in October). Should the conflict escalate after the winter, FX operations may rise again. Hence maintaining US\$/UAH at the current level seems untenable, despite significant foreign aid, given the central bank's FX reserves are at around US\$25bn.
- Long-term prospects for the hryvnia are hard to predict. Even after the war with Russia finally ends, policymakers will have to decide whether to convert foreign aid via the market to help to stabilise inflation or for the central bank to support exports. Still, given the massive damage to the Ukrainian economy, US\$ returning anywhere close to pre-war levels seems highly unlikely.



Source: Refinitiv, ING

USD/KZT: Downside appears limited thanks to domestic factors

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
USD/KZT	469.2000	Mildly Bullish	480.00	480.00	470.00	470.00

- Having touched 460 vs the US dollar in mid-November during the tax period, USD/KZT is now back above 470, in line with expectations, on weaker oil prices and very modest FX sales of just \$0.3bn out of the sovereign fund for the budget spending purposes.
- With President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev winning the snap elections, local sentiment should be supported. However, the tenge remains vulnerable to external factors, such as oil prices and risk appetite.
- Assuming mild dollar appreciation expected by ING for the coming months amid stable oil prices, the tenge may remain under moderate pressure in the near term, but the downside for the longer run appears limited thanks to [local fundamentals](#).



Source: Refinitiv, ING

USD/TRY: Risks to the TRY outlook under focus

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
USD/TRY	18.6400	Mildly Bullish ↗	18.90	19.30	20.30	24.00

- FX reserves that have been quite volatile this year have shown a rapid recovery since the end of July despite rate cuts since August. Another boost to reserves in the near term is also likely if Turkey and Saudi Arabia finalise the US\$5bn deposit deal.
- TRY has been stable lately because of inflows under net errors and omissions, the FX-protected deposit scheme diverting FX demand from residents, and implicit Central Bank of Turkey intervention. In this environment, the real effective exchange rate increased by more than 15%, implying significant real appreciation since the end of 2021.
- We think TRY will remain on a gradual depreciation path on a nominal basis in the near term, assuming that additional credit and fiscal stimulus measures are kept limited. However, risks to the TRY are on the downside if we see a larger-than-expected deficit in the current account due to higher energy or commodity prices and less interest in the FX-protected deposit scheme.



Source: Refinitiv, ING

USD/ZAR: The presidential premium

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
USD/ZAR	17.7000	Mildly Bearish 	17.50	17.50	17.25	16.50

- The rand is failing to fully take advantage of the weak dollar environment, where one would think it should be trading under 17.00 by now. Apart from the weaker dollar, South Africa has seen its terms of trade pick up sharply, saw a very narrow -0.3% of GDP current account deficit in Q3 as well as 1.4% quarter-on-quarter GDP growth.
- Instead, potential impeachment proceedings against President Cyril Ramaphosa seem to be holding the rand back. We should find out shortly whether parliament wants to support an independent panel's findings that he may have violated the constitution.
- A tough growth/risk environment in 2023 leaves us ZAR negative.

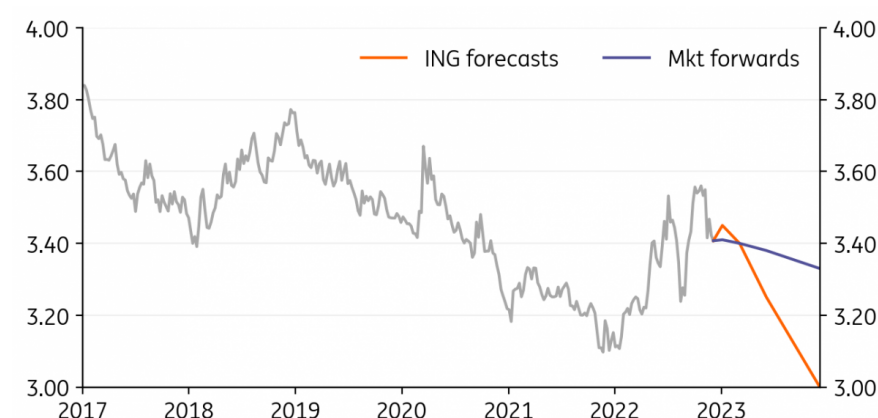


Source: Refinitiv, ING

USD/ILS: ILS looks well positioned

	Spot	One month bias	1M	3M	6M	12M
USD/ILS	3.4300	Neutral	3.45	3.40	3.25	3.00

- USD/ILS continues to consolidate in the 3.40/45 area in a soft dollar environment. The shekel remains one of our preferred currencies for when the big dollar trend fully turns lower – something which may not happen until next spring/summer.
- Strong growth, low unemployment and a large current account surplus underpin the shekel, as does a policy rate now at 3.25%. Into 2023, the market prices the policy rate staying at 3.25/3.50%.
- The big turn lower in USD/ILS also probably requires a more durable rally in equity markets – again something which may not be seen until spring/summer 2023. Expect good demand for the shekel now should we see a correction to the 3.50 area.



Source: Refinitiv, ING

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