

BriefING Romania

Central bank on hold at 2.50%, no change in tone

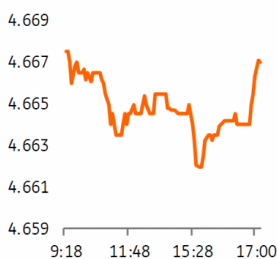


24h call

€ / RON



EUR/RON: previous session



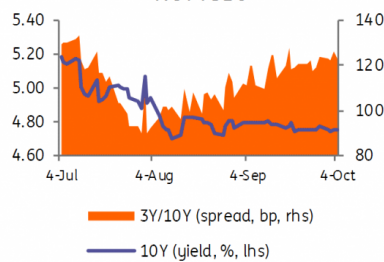
10yr yield



O/N implied yield



ROMGBs



Source: Reuters

EUR/RON

The EUR/RON closed flat yesterday, around 4.6670, despite somewhat higher intraday volatility. The NBR Governor's press briefing following the Board meeting didn't bring much news. The central bank is still vigilant on exchange rate developments and we believe that FX stability will be the main driver of interest rate decisions, particularly if depreciation pressure on the leu intensifies.

Today we look for the same 4.6600-4.6700 range.

📈 Government bonds

Today the MinFin plans to sell RON300 million in a 6-month T-Bill auction. The shorter dates haven't been that popular lately given the liquidity deficit and repo-dependant money market, but due to the small amount, the MinFin should not have problems meeting its target. We expect the average yield to come in around 3.25%, slightly below the FX swap implied yields. Clustered demand will likely be appealing to MinFin and an upsize should not be ruled out. Otherwise, US Treasuries surging to levels last seen back in 2011 could translate into upside pressure on the ROMGBs curve.

➡ Money Market

Money market yields covering the current reserve period dropped another 5-10 basis points and are now trading around 2.60% as liquidity injections work their way into interest rates. Nevertheless, we tend to believe that it is not yet game over for the current reserve period as the Romanian leu has been under some depreciation pressure lately while MinFin's possible auction upsizes could still distort the liquidity picture. At yesterday's press briefing, Governor Mugur Isarescu referred to a possible cut in minimum reserve requirements (MRR) for local currency. It seems however that the NBR is reluctant to create a structural liquidity surplus which could ignite further depreciation pressure on the Romanian leu. Combined with a less benign inflation backdrop, this leads us to believe that a potential cut in RON MRR is rather distant.

EUR/RON forecasts and forwards

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

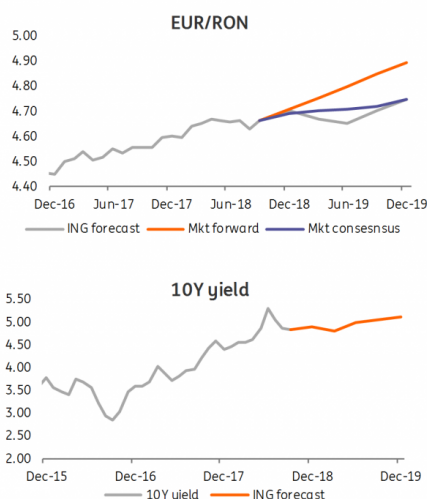
Source: Reuters, ING estimates

Market radar

	Spot	%Ch		
		1D	1W	1M
EUR/RON	4.6645	-0.1	0.1	0.8
EUR/PLN	4.3044	0.1	0.8	-0.1
EUR/HUF	323.45	0.0	-0.1	-13
EUR/CZK	25.764	-0.2	0.5	0.1
RO 5Y CDS*	96.56	0.1	0.8	5.2
ROBOR O/N*	2.67	0.0	-10	0.0
ROBOR 3M*	3.16	10	10	-5.0
DAX	0	-0.4	-99.7	-99.7
S&P 500	2925.51	0.0	12	15
DE 10Y*	0.549	5.6	15	19.0
US 10Y*	3.2192	10.5	15.8	317
Gold (US\$)**	1188.08	-0.5	0.3	0.6
Brent (US\$)**	86.03	18	6.5	10.4

*change in basis points; **US\$ (data as at 06:20 GMT)

Source: Reuters, Bloomberg, ING



Author

Ciprian Dascalu

Chief Economist, Romania

+40 31 406 8990

ciprian.dascalu@ing.com

Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania

valentin.tataru@ing.com

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