## Main Market Developments

Money Market Contact Group

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**Belfius Bank** 

## **Global Snapshot**

Since the start of 2025, the global economy has entered a new phase marked by fragmentation, fiscal assertiveness, and geopolitical reordering. The new U.S. Administration has reignited protectionist rhetoric and introduced fresh uncertainty into global trade and diplomacy. In Europe, Germany's bold fiscal stimulus—dubbed the "bazooka"—has signaled a shift toward more interventionist economic policy, while it has accelerated its rearmament in response to renewed geopolitical tensions and shifting NATO dynamics.



## **Global Snapshot**

Weighing on trade flows and economic activity, higher U.S. tariffs and persistent policy uncertainty are setting the stage for a global economic



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook (WEO), Apr 2025



Although central banks are currently proceeding with caution in a data-dependent and wait-and-see mode, further interest rate cuts are anticipated later this year as policymakers aim to mitigate the economic impact of tariff-related disruptions





10-Year European Sovereign Bonds



## **Global Snapshot**









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### **ECB** Snapshot



Amid escalating global trade tensions, markets significantly lowered their rate forecasts in the past 6 months

€STR actual and implied-O/N after year-to-date ECB policy rate announcements

Euro area inflation is heading towards the ECB target...

... with 2027 inflation projections confirming the path towards equilibrium at the end of the ECB projection horizon





## **ECB** Snapshot



## **Repo Snapshot**

Sovereign repo rates have trended upwards toward the Deposit Facility Rate, with recent spreads ranging from ESTR+5 to +9 bps, depending on the collateral type



# Similarly, Eurex GC Pooling short-term cash-driven transactions are aligning closely with the Deposit Facility Rate

Dec22 Dec23 Dec24 Aug22 Feb23 Aug23 Aug24 Feb25 Jun22 Oct22 Apr23 Oct23 eb24 Oct24 un23 Apr24 un24 Apr2! 0.05 -0.15 -0.35 -0.55 -0.75 -0.95 -1 15 Spread Eurex-DFR Linear (Spread Eurex-DFR) Source: ISS STOXX

STOXX GC Pooling EUR Deferred Funding Rate - Rate (in %)

## Driven by rising net government bond issuance and given the ECB balance sheet normalization, trading volumes in European sovereign bonds have risen





#### In contrast to declining Eurozone excess liquidity, cash-driven volumes in Eurex GC Pooling are on the rise



## **Repo Snapshot**

Despite global trade uncertainty, current increased government issuance (and expected with upcoming German stimulus package, ReArm Europe program), and ECB balance sheet normalization, the repo market remains a stable and deep source of liquidity

#### ... transmitting policy rates effectively



### ... while experiencing regulatory-driven spread widening (LCR, NSFR)



## YoY STOXX GC Pooling EUR Spread vs 12-month ESTR OIS (in bp)



### ... with end of first quarter 2025 spreads aligned with current market spreads vs €STR



#### End of Quarter Spread RFR 1-d EUR vs €STR (in bp)

#### ... with active engagement from market participants

- NSFR 30/06 : EU Parliament ratification
- ECMS : potential repo developments
- EU basket

0.25

- ESG initiatives : Green repo basket
- New entrants

#### ... but still with potential risks to consider

- Sources of liquidity concentration risk
- Liquidity provider behavior around reporting dates
- Regulatory reforms (ex: MMF, ...)

## Short-term European Paper (STEP\*) Snapshot

The STEP market remains a key pillar of euro-area short-term funding, supported by persistent liquidity demand, effective monetary transmission, and cautious non-bank investor interest, though it still faces risks from regulatory changes (ex: MMF reform), fragmentation, and liquidity shocks.

\*Despite its growth, it represents only a segment of the broader euro-denominated short-term market.



to long-term tenors because the total amount of STEP outstanding increased

Covered bonds have demonstrated notable resilience amid the recent post-Liberation Day market volatility, reaffirming their stabilizing role in the market. In contrast, senior and subordinated spreads experienced significant widening due to heightened risk aversion, though they have since begun to normalize as sentiment gradually recovers. Market activity was subdued during the days following the Liberation Day, with issuance resuming cautiously led by a new covered bond deal that reopened the primary market ahead of other funding instruments.

