

MAJOR CENTRAL BANKS POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR 2016

Jeremy Schwartz — Global Chief Investment Officer

12/30/2015

I recently spoke with Jawad Mian, editor of "Stray Reflections," and Richard Clarida, global strategic advisor to PIMCO and economics professor at Columbia, regarding their thoughts on policy action by the Federal Reserve (Fed), the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and the European Central Bank (ECB), as well as global implications for investing. Below I outline the key takeaways.

Fed's Policy Normalization Mian applauds the Fed's decisive action to embark on policy normalization. Although the recovery has been lethargic, averaging 2% yearly, he believes it is important to look at the nature of recovery and not just the numbers. Mian believes the corporate sector has regained confidence, wages have risen, the household sector has rebuilt its balance sheet to a large extent with debt to income back to 2002 levels and auto sales are back at their highs. Further, Mian believes 2% growth would ordinarily be associated with an increase of 50,000 jobs, but today we are seeing 150,000 jobs being created despite 2% growth. Given this backdrop, excessively easy [monetary policy](#) is no longer required.

U.S. Stock Market Skepticism Mian highlights that the recovery has been looked upon with disdain and there is so much distrust surrounding stock market gains. He believes the underlying economy is strong, with a growing manufacturing sector. Mian sees the large moves in the U.S. dollar distorting economic growth and variables like global reserves balances. If the U.S. economy avoids recession and China stabilizes, he sees stocks potentially outperforming bonds in 2016; he also foresees double-digit returns next year in many markets.

Europe and Japan Accelerating Policy Easing Mian believes that Europe and Japan will outperform in 2016, largely because of monetary policy divergence among the Fed, ECB and BOJ. Given that we are in the early innings of a European recovery—only 8 months old—he is most encouraged by strong lending growth. In Europe especially, the [small and medium-size enterprises \(SME\)](#) rely largely on banks for funding—and therefore [credit](#) growth in Europe is crucial. He mentioned that the average company in Europe has grown earnings by 15%, but total index earnings remain flat due to the large commodity and energy exposure, particularly in the U.K. and Italy. Mian's top sector picks in Europe are Health Care and Financials, with Financials in his view that the capital raising needed to manage their deleveraging largely as being completed.

Currency Implications : Euro and Yen Clarida believes that ECB president Mario Draghi and BOJ governor Haruhiko Kuroda's commitment to [quantitative easing \(QE\)](#) and the ability to do much more if needed to meet the 2% [inflation](#) target will ultimately result in a grind lower of the euro and yen against the U.S. dollar—with the expectation of the euro ultimately hitting parity. While Clarida is ultimately [bullish](#) on the U.S. dollar, he sees the gains slowing down from the recent moves. Mian also believes the euro is going to reach parity and below sometime in 2016.

China Greatly Misunderstood China's mini currency devaluation, in hindsight, was largely a reflection of the reality of slowing economic growth and a desire to show two-way currency market moves to the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#). Mian believes China has to maintain a stable currency ahead of inclusion in the [Special Drawing Rights](#) basket next year. But ultimately, a 10% devaluation is not in China's interest given that the country is running a high [current account surplus](#), and the political fallout from such a move could be quite large. Further, a large devaluation could manifest in large [deflationary](#) shocks globally. Instead of currency policy, the People's Bank of China has other tools available, such as stimulating the economy by cutting lending rates, if needed. According to Mian, in assessing China's growth potential, many focus on old economy indicators and miss out on newer economy signals. He believes China's services sector is a larger driver of growth today than it has ever been: Wages have been growing at a single-digit pace, retail sales are strong, travel is booming and these indicators seem to point to better growth prospects ahead.

Outlook for Long-Term Yields Mian points out that bond returns this year have been disappointing, despite a global risk-off environment driven by Greece worries, an oil crash, China's devaluation and Fed uncertainty. It is likely also that deflation risks are overblown given that long-term yields are higher on the year. His forecasts are for the [10-year bond yields](#) to hit 3.25% and the 30-year to hit 3.6% at the end of the policy normalization cycle. Mian believes stocks are likely to do well until [interest rates](#) reach restrictive levels—what he sees as 3.25% on 10-year. At these interest rate levels, if inflation hovers around 1.5% and nominal growth 2.5%, Mian notes that this maybe the rate at which the economy begins to buckle.

Unless otherwise stated, data source is Bloomberg, as of 12/18/15.

Important Risks Related to this Article

Foreign investing involves special risks, such as risk of loss from currency fluctuation or political or economic uncertainty.

Investments focused in Japan, Europe and China increase the impact of events and developments associated with the regions, which can adversely affect performance.

Investments in currency involve additional special risks, such as credit risk and interest rate fluctuations.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click [here](#) NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

For more investing insights, check out our [Economic & Market Outlook](#)

View the online version of this article [here](#).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

U.S. investors only: Click [here](#) to obtain a WisdomTree ETF prospectus which contains investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other information; read and consider carefully before investing.

There are risks involved with investing, including possible loss of principal. Foreign investing involves currency, political and economic risk. Funds focusing on a single country, sector and/or funds that emphasize investments in smaller companies may experience greater price volatility. Investments in emerging markets, currency, fixed income and alternative investments include additional risks. Please see prospectus for discussion of risks.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This material contains the opinions of the author, which are subject to change, and should not to be considered or interpreted as a recommendation to participate in any particular trading strategy, or deemed to be an offer or sale of any investment product and it should not be relied on as such. There is no guarantee that any strategies discussed will work under all market conditions. This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. This material should not be relied upon as research or investment advice regarding any security in particular. The user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of the information provided herein. Neither WisdomTree nor its affiliates, nor Foreside Fund Services, LLC, or its affiliates provide tax or legal advice. Investors seeking tax or legal advice should consult their tax or legal advisor. Unless expressly stated otherwise the opinions, interpretations or findings expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of WisdomTree or any of its affiliates.

The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or re-disseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for or component of any financial instruments or products or indexes. None of the MSCI information is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance analysis, forecast or prediction. The MSCI information is provided on an "as is" basis and the user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. MSCI, each of its affiliates and each entity involved in compiling, computing or creating any MSCI information (collectively, the "MSCI Parties") expressly disclaims all warranties. With respect to this information, in no event shall any MSCI Party have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential (including loss profits) or any other damages (www.msci.com)

Jonathan Steinberg, Jeremy Schwartz, Rick Harper, Christopher Gannatti, Bradley Krom, Tripp Zimmerman, Michael Barrer, Anita Rausch, Kevin Flanagan, Brendan Loftus, Joseph Tenaglia, Jeff Weniger, Matt Wagner, Alejandro Saltiel, Ryan Krystopowicz, Kara Marciscano, Jianing Wu, Brian Manby and Scott Welch are registered representatives of Foreside Fund Services, LLC.

WisdomTree Funds are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, in the U.S. only.

You cannot invest directly in an index.

DEFINITIONS

Monetary policy : Actions of a central bank or other regulatory committee that determine the size and rate of growth of the money supply, which in turn affects interest rates.

Credit : A contractual agreement in which a borrower receives something of value now and agrees to repay the lender at some date in the future.

Quantitative Easing (QE) : A government monetary policy occasionally used to increase the money supply by buying government securities or other securities from the market. Quantitative easing increases the money supply by flooding financial institutions with capital, in an effort to promote increased lending and liquidity.

Inflation : Characterized by rising price levels.

Bullish : a position that benefits when asset prices rise.

International Monetary Fund : international organization for global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth around the world.

Special Drawing Rights (SDR) : an international reserve asset and accounting measure created by the IMF.

Current account surplus : A position in which a country is a net lender to the rest of the world, often driven by more exports than imports.

Deflation : The opposite of inflation, characterized by falling price levels.

Yield : The income return on an investment. Refers to the interest or dividends received from a security that is typically expressed annually as a percentage of the market or face value.

10-year government bond yield : Yields on the 10 year government debt security.

Interest rates : The rate at which interest is paid by a borrower for the use of money.