

# **UAH/USD** exchange rate

# NBU and IMF action calms FX market

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#### UAH/USD exchange rate and 5Y CDS



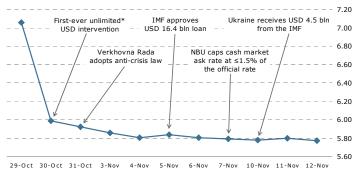
- The UAH/USD exchange rate has been relatively stable since Oct. 30 thanks to preemptive action by the NBU and signing of the USD 16.4 bln IMF loan agreement
- In our view, the current stability is more artificial than fundamental, and we expect more volatility through yearend

#### NBU actions and IMF loan stabilize UAH/USD rate

From Oct. 30 - Nov. 12, the UAH/USD exchange rate has been relatively stable compared to the severe volatility observed over September-October. The National Bank of Ukraine managed to saturate the market with dollars: every day from Oct. 30 to Nov. 10 and on Nov. 12, the NBU intervened on the interbank market, on some days selling as many dollars as demanded by the market, whereas before it sold only a certain amount each day. In addition, on Nov. 7, the NBU capped the asking price for dollars for participants of the cash FX market at no more than 1.5% over the official rate.

Another crucial factor working to calm the market was the up to USD 16.4 bln standby loan to Ukraine from the International Monetary Fund. By November 10, Ukraine had received the first tranche of USD 4.5 bln, according to Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk. CDS contracts on Ukraine's sovereign five-year debt began to fall from a record high of 2,916 bps on Oct. 28, the day after the Verkhovna Rada passed, in its first reading, the legislative package required to receive the IMF loan.

### UAH/USD stable since October 30



<sup>\*</sup> NBU sold as many dollars as demanded by the market, versus selling only a certain amount Source: Bloomberg

## We may see more volatility soon

In our view, it is likely that the recent stabilization on the FX market is the result of the NBU's action to soothe anxiety rather than any fundamental factors. The deal reached with the IMF envisages targeting NBU reserves and keeping exchange rates flexible. The amount of interventions will be limited, thus we may see more volatility soon.



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