EUROZONE RISK MORPHOLOGY

THE EVOLUTION

OF THE

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The ideas and positions expressed in the work are personal views of the author and cannot be attributed to the institutions to which he belongs.





- □ Risk assessment at the origin
- □ The financial crisis turnaround on the risk structure
- □ The «whatever it takes» re-definition of the risk shape
- Proposals for risk normalization



Risk assessment at the origin

- □ The financial crisis turnaround on the risk structure
- □ The «whatever it takes» re-definition of the risk shape
- **Proposals for risk normalization**

The Germanization of the interest rates



Convergence Trades



The Germanization of the interest rates



Convergence Trades



The Germanization of the interest rates



The Italianization of the exchange rates



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Real Effective Exchange Rate - Perc. Variation (Basis: Jan. 1994)

Germany Italy



The Italianization of the exchange rates



Current Account Balance as GDP %

■GER ■ITA



Public Debt Europeanization



Eurozone - Share of government Debt held by Foreign Investors



2000 2007



- □ Risk assessment at the origin
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2007: *subprime crisis*2008: Lehman Brothers default

CREDIT RISK MEASUREMENT



2007: *subprime crisis*2008: Lehman Brothers default

International Financial Crisis – Propagation to Europe



2007: *subprime crisis*2008: Lehman Brothers default

International Financial Crisis – Propagation to Europe





2007: *subprime crisis* **2008:** Lehman Brothers default

The break up of the single interest rates curve



The break up of the single interest rates curve



The break up of the single interest rates curve



Shadow Currencies/Exchange Rate



Interest Rate Parity Theory: a full picture of German/Italian economics



** implication Shadow Currencies/Exchange Rate



Interest Rate Parity Theory fails: only credit risk





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Large Financialisation of the Economy

Financial Assets/GDP (2008)



2nd implication Collateral discrimination, spread intermediation





funding costs

rise

2nd implication</sup> Collateral discrimination, spread intermediation







Eurozone – Share of Government Debt held by Foreign Investors





Public Debt Nationalization



THE ITALIAN CASE STUDY

Sovereign Debt - sectorial breakdown (2007-2013)





Public Debt Nationalization



THE ITALIAN CASE STUDY

LTROs feed the presence of sovereign bonds in the Italian banks portfolio



4th implication Competitiveness gaps between member countries

Balance of trade (Eurostat 2002 – 2013)



4th implication Competitiveness gaps between member countries







EUROSTAT Data and Eurozone Central Banks Data











SPREADS



4th implication Competitiveness gaps between member countries



INFLATION + SPREADS



Price **1999 10 \$**





Price **1999 10 \$**





4th implication Competitiveness gaps between member countries

INFLATION + SPREADS



Price		1
1999	10.0 \$	
2013	11.7 \$	-













EURO as a fixed exchange rate regime



Relative size of the trade balance among some members of the Monetary Union (year 2003)





EURO as a fixed exchange rate regime



Relative size of the trade balance among some members of the Monetary Union (year 2003)

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EURO as a fixed exchange rate regime



Relative size of the trade balance among some members of the Monetary Union (year 2003)




EURO as a fixed exchange rate regime



Relative size of the trade balance among some members of the Monetary Union (year 2003)





EURO as a fixed exchange rate regime



Relative size of the trade balance among some members of the Monetary Union (year 2003)





EURO as a fixed exchange rate regime



Relative size of the trade balance among some members of the Monetary Union (year 2003)

4th implication Competitiveness gaps between member countries



EU export % to rest of the world – opposite trends



EUROSTAT Data and Eurozone Central Banks Data





"substantially" denominated in foreign currency

1997 – Public Debts

(Billions of national currency)

Germany	Greece	Spain	France	Italy
German mark	Greek drachma	Spanish peseta	French franc	Italian lira
1,143	105	333	751	1,239
60% of GDP	97% of GDP	66% of GDP	59% of GDP	117% of GDP

EUROSTAT Data



5th implication



"substantially" denominated in foreign currency

1997 – Public Debts

(Billions of national currency)

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German mark	Greek drachma	Spanish peseta	French franc	Italian lira
1,143	105	333	751	1,239
60% of GDP	97% of GDP	66% of GDP	59% of GDP	117% of GDP



Euro involves the transfer of monetary sovereignty to the ECB

2013 – Public Debts

(Billions of Euro)

Germany	Greece	Spain	France	Italy
2,147	318	960	1,925	2,069
78% of GDP	175% of GDP	94% of GDP	93% of GDP	133% of GDP

5th implication

EZ members' Public debts become



"substantially" denominated in foreign currency

The public debt denominated in foreign currency is unsustainable when around 70% of GDP

	Year of default	Public debt denominated in foreign currency on GDP
Argentine	1982	55.1%
	2001	50.8%
Iran	1992	41.8%
Mexico	1982	46.7%
Russia	1991	12.5%
	1998	58.5%
Turkey	1978	21.0%
Venezuela	1982	41.4%
	• • • • •	
Average of 36 cases of default on public debt denominated in foreign currency between 1970- 2008		69.3 %

Source: This time is different – Eight Century of Financial Folly - C. Reinhart, K. Rogoff.

2013 – Public Debts

(Billions of Euro)

Germany	Greece	Spain	France	Italy
2,147	318	960	1,925	2,069
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Credit Risk Exposure





Assets	Liabilities
	Debt 100



Bundesbank









6th implication Target2: Mutualization of the credit risk borne by private banks



EUROSTAT Data and Eurozone Central Banks Data

6th implication Target2: Mutualization of the credit risk borne by private banks

Systemic credit risk transferred from the German banking system to the Eurosystem (*Target2 net balance/cumulative current account surplus*)

LTRO EU (Net of Germany)



EUROSTAT Data and Eurozone Central Banks Data

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7th implication

Vendor financing

The German banking system expands credit to the periphery to support the German current account surplus









EUROSTAT Data and Eurozone Central Banks Data

th implication Vendor financing EU-cycle (2004-2013)



break down by countries Peripheral Counties cannot longer support the German Current Account. France is the only EU country that still does it. 800 German Cumulative Current Account towards Europe Ψ France **Billions** of Italy 700 Spain 25% Others EU 600 500 22% 400 30% 300 25% 200 49% 100 37% 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

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th implication Vendor financing EU-cycle (2004-2013)



break down by countries

The drop of demand in Peripheral Countries reduces their credit demand to German banks. France increases its liabilities towards German banks



7th implication Vendor financing – Credit recovery EU-cycle







Target2 and LTRO – Impact on real economy





The European mechanisms and interventions have allowed:

Germany:

- to finance its trade surplus;
- to transfer the risk of its banks on the European System of Central Banks;

Peripheral Countries:

- to re-pay their debts to Germany;
- to nationalize their sovereign debt.

Positive impact on German real economy

Negative impact on Peripheral Countries' real economy



Vendor financing WW-cycle



THE GERMAN CASE STUDY









In order to finance its exports Germany expands its credit towards the rest of the world while reducing its exposure to EU countries





The next vendor financing cycle would have likely unfolded on a global scale.





Any new support from the ECB to the German banking system should have envisaged the **deleveraging of credits granted to extra-EU entities**



The "traditional" **LTRO-Target2 scheme** was no longer handy in this environment since only EU banks had access to LTRO loans



This issue should have affected the structuring of the ECB *Quantitative Easing*

8th implication Vendor financing cycle (from 2013 onwards)



THE GERMAN CASE STUDY

The next vendor financing cycle would have likely unfolded on a global scale.





Euro break up probability



Sovereign CDS in euro



Protection against sovereign default



Euro break up probability



Sovereign CDS in dollar



sovereign default + Euro break up



implication



Sovereign Quanto CDS spread



Premium for the protection against Euro break up



Euro break up probability



Quanto CDS Spread



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Euro break up probability



Quanto CDS Spread





- □ Risk assessment at the origin
- □ The financial crisis turnaround on the risk structure
- □ The «whatever it takes» re-definition of the risk shape
- **Proposals for risk normalization**
The «whatever it takes» helps deflating some symptoms but... ...it remains persistent divergence across member countries



- Genetic flaws: no fiscal union, no political union, monetary orthodoxy
- ECB's inflation target to be pursued as weighted *average value* across States
- Unsound policies to manage the crisis and increase Eurozone resilience:
 - Deauville meeting Agreement on Private Sector Involvement
 - D PSI at work: the second Greek debt crisis
 - Fiscal Compact
 - □ Nationalization of public debts of peripheral countries
 - CACs on EZ Govies from Jan.2013
 - □ Collateral discrimination
 - □ Spread Intermediation
 - **D** Burden sharing and bail in regulation
 - □ No agreement on EDIS
 - □ NCBs as insurance providers within the PSPP
 - . .

and still: «all on the same boat»











Total debt as GDP %

■ Germany ■ Italy



⁷⁶

The overall *leverage* of the German system increased just 10% in 20 years

The overall *leverage* of the Italian system increased by more than 60% in 20 years

Public Debt (as GDP %)

 $1995\ 1996\ 1997\ 1998\ 1999\ 2000\ 2001\ 2002\ 2003\ 2004\ 2005\ 2006\ 2007\ 2008\ 2009\ 2010\ 2011\ 2012\ 2013\ 2014\ 2015\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016\ 2016$

Large Current Account Imbalances (data in GDP %)

on Eurostat data 85

Endless inflation differentials: Italy vs Germany

Endless inflation differentials: Spain vs Germany

Endless inflation differentials: France vs Germany

Diverging Real Effective Exchange Rates

---France ---Germany ---Italy ---Spain 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 [an-00 Jul-00 an-01 [u]-01 an-02 ul-02 ul-05 ul-07 an-08 Jul-08 an-10 Jul-10 Jul-11 an-12 an-16 ul-03 an-05 an-06 ul-06 ul-05 an-13 Jul-13 [ul-15 ul-16 [ul-17 an-03 an-04 ul-04 an-07 an-1 [ul-12 Jul-14 an-1: an-1 an-18 ul-1 <u>-</u>

Credit risk discovery and dissolution of the single interest rates curve

Competitiveness gap measures

Risk Backbone

Financial Real Effective Exchange Rate (F-REER)

Deleveraging from the periphery

Public Debt Nationalization within the EZ periphery

Italy 80% Residents Non-residents 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% Mar-99 Mar-00 Mar-02 Mar-03 Mar-04 Mar-06 Mar-08 Mar-09 Mar-13 Mar-16 Mar-17 Mar-18 Mar-98 Mar-01 Mar-05 Mar-07 Mar-10 Mar-11 Mar-12 Mar-14 Mar-15 Mar-97

Portugal

Greece

Source: Bruegel Database on Sovereign Debt Holdings

^{2nd Risk} Backbone Public debt nationalization in Italy and ECB lending to Italian banks

Public Debt Nationalization in Italy

The role of NCBs during the PSPP

Source: Bruegel database on sovereign debt holdings

Chronic shortage of safe assets

Safe assets and public debt w.r.t. the Eurozone GDP

Target2 imbalances

Evolution of the Target2 balances of core and peripheral Eurozone countries

Target2 imbalances

Italy - Target2 Net Balance - Decomposition via Balance of Payments flows

103 Source: Eurostat

Target2 imbalances

Germany - Target2 Net Balance - Decomposition via Balance of Payments flows

Jul-11 Nov-11 Mar-12 Jul-12 Nov-12 Mar-13 Jul-13 Nov-13 Mar-14 Jul-14 Nov-14 Mar-15 Jul-15 Nov-15 Mar-16 Jul-16 Nov-16 Mar-17
104
Source :Eurostat

Risk Segregation Measures

Real (sovereign) yield spreads

Source: Bloomberg

Risk Segregation Measures

Real (sovereign) yield spreads



Source: IMF – Global Debt Database





Nominal yield spread of Italian and Spanish 10-year Govies wrt the German Bund





Source: Bloomberg





Scatter plots of the over two distinct periods



Source: Author's calculations on Bloomberg data







EurExit Risk Assessment







Linker basis for a pair of Italian government bonds expiring in 2024











EurExit Risk Assessment





EurExit Risk Measures



Implied probability of France euro exit within 5 years





5-year implied probability of a euro exit derived from the ISDA Basis for France, Spain and Italy











Source: Author's calculations on Bloomberg data







The new Eurozone Risk Morphology

1st risk backbone Competitiveness Gap Risk



2nd risk backbone Segregation Risk





- □ Risk assessment at the origin
- □ The financial crisis turnaround on the risk structure
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Proposals for risk normalization



□ True Banking Union:

- Green light to EDIS
- Coherent risk policies for UTP&NPL and Level 2&3 Assets

□ 3-steps monetary policy to make room for the risk-sharing

ESM reforms to get a gradual transition to Eurobonds and a EU-wide investment policy (see: Minenna, Dosi, Roventini, Violi, 2019, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10479-019-03325-9)

Homogeneous Risk-based Asset Quality Review





3 steps of monetary policy to make room for the risk sharing



Tweaking the Quantitative Easing

Leave the capital key criterion and allow the purchase of a greater share of securities for countries with higher spreads

Freezing of long-term government securities

Re-modulation of the QE reinvestment program and of the 2nd round of net assets purchases in order to target only *ultra long* government bonds (over 30 year residual life)

Risk sharing swap

Centralization of government bonds' purchases at the ECB by exempting National Central Banks from direct securities' purchases and by accepting a full risk sharing on the securities already held by the Euro-system ESM 1.0: what's wrong?

Current ESM Capital Key



Country-specific contribution scheme proportional to the contribute of each 127 country to the GDP and population of the EU Community



Two-tier capital configuration



€ 704 billion of authorized capital subscription

only $\in 80.55$ billion (i.e. the 11.4%) already paid in \rightarrow the rest are callable shares





Open issues with the current set-up

- ✓ Potential problems with the capital structure: the large gap between subscribed and paid in capital exposes the ESM to a relevant insolvency/liquidity risk at the moment of the greatest need
- ✓ <u>Lending</u> is available only in deeply distressed scenarios





Open issues with the current set-up

- ✓ <u>Strict conditionality</u> : to become beneficiary of a ESM financial assistance program a country must:
 - have signed the Fiscal Compact
 - be compliant the EU budgetary rules
 - have signed a MoU with a detailed list of committments to implement domestic reforms according to a precise schedule
- ✓ <u>No full reliance</u> on the 'democratic' principle of no discrimination among shareholders: the first three shareholders (Germany, France and Italy) can veto any decision even under the emergency procedure



Open issues with the current set-up

Strict conditionality and limited reliance on the no discrimination principle reflect the **risk segregation** attitude of the current Eurozone environment

Other phenomena related to risk segregation are:

- ✓ large Target 2 imbalances
- ✓ lack of a Eurozone safe asset

At the same time, the «No Bail Out» clause doesn't seem credible

ESM 1.0: current balance sheet









In a nutshell:

Architectural limits prevent the European Stability Mechanism from restoring a long-lasting stability in the Euro area





Bondholders



MUTUALISATION OF SOVEREIGN RISKS

Bondholders



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COMPLIANCE WITH MARKETS' LOGIC:

insurance premium depends on the distance of each country's sovereign CDS from the weighted average of Eurozone sovereign CDS

(riskier countries pay higher premia)





Gradual transition to a single Eurozone public debt



ESM 2.0: updated balance sheet







Markets' agents update their expectations:

resume to bet on the convergence of the interest rates curves of euro area countries

sell bonds issued by **core** governments



buy bonds issued by **peripheral** governments



Estimated pattern of 10-year sovereign CDS

(initial data as of September 2017)





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towards a true Eurozone safe asset

ESM 2.0: using leverage to stimulate investments





ESM 2.0: using leverage to stimulate investments








Investment-Backed Securities (IBS):

risk-return profile strictly related to the receivables on funded investment projects



ESM 2.0: using leverage to stimulate investments





Holders of ESM-issued notes

ESM 2.0: using leverage to stimulate investments





ESM 2.0: moving to risk sharing

Estimated evolution of theoretical debt-to-GDP ratios



ESM 2.0: moving to risk sharing



ESM 2.0: moving to risk sharing



MUTUALISATION OF SOVEREIGN DEBTS

ESM 2.0: our proposal in a nutshell



PROS	CONS
The Eurozone sovereign bailout Fund would become, through a gradual market-based process, the guarantor of the Eurozone public debt	During the convergence process core countries would face modest increases in interest spending on public debt
Elimination of redenomination risk	
Reduction of moral hazard gains that a member country could achieve by leaving the Eurozone	
Elimination of sovereign yield spreads across EMU members	
Creation of a Eurozone safe asset with an outstanding notional appropriate to the needs of the economic and financial system of the Euro area	
Normalization of the existing imbalances on the Target2 system	
Elimination of the phenomenon of negative interest rates	152

ESM 2.0: our proposal in a nutshell

PROS	CONS
Golden rule for public investments	
Elimination of the callable shares envisaged by the current ESM financial structure	
The ESM would be recapitalized at the expense of the member countries whose sovereign risk exceeds the Eurozone average	
Use of market pricing techniques for the creation of the financial structure of the ESM 2.0	
 Provision of a 10-year or more transition period for the shift to: 1. a Eurozone public debt, 2. Eurobonds, 3. a federal budget of adequate size, 4. a European harmonized framework for the management of contracts and litigations 	
Easier tapering	



Taming moral hazard

- Financial markets' discipline
- No-redenomination clause for the debt backed by ESM
- Public deficit cannot exceed the Fiscal Compact one plus the premia paid to the ESM
- ESM guarantee doesn't hold for not complying countries
- In case of opportunistic default, the country loses the premia paid to ESM and the debt with ESM guarantee is senior
- ESM can ask extra contributions to risky countries
- Strong benefits from lower interest rates and lower risk of financial market turmoil
- Part of the premia paid to the ESM are invested in the country

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