ECB Unconventional Monetary Policy: Market Impact and International Spillovers

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Aims and scope →

Notes

1. See for example R. Rajan, “Global Monetary Policy: A View from Emerging Markets,” Brookings Institution, April 10, 2014.

2. B. Bernanke, “Challenges of the Global Financial System: Risks and Governance under Evolving Globalization,” Tokyo, October 14, 2012.

3. Other recent articles focus on the impact of the ECB Extended Asset Purchase Programme (see, for example, Altavilla, Carboni, and Motto, 2015).

preset amounts at variable rate tenders where banks bid both the amount of money and the interest rate. In these auctions, the ECB would satisfy the demand of liquidity starting from the highest offered interest rate until exhaustion of the preset amount of loans available for auction. However, in October 2008, as the crisis intensified, the ECB moved to a framework where it agreed to satisfy all the liquidity demanded by banks ("full allotment") against collateral. Also, the variable rate tenders were abandoned and the cost of liquidity was linked to the average main refinancing rate (the discount rate) of the ECB over the life of loans.

9. The liquidity created by bond purchases under the SMP was sterilized by the ECB via weekly liquidity absorbing operations.

model dependent (Bauer and Rudebusch, 2014; Bauer and Neely, 2014). Against the background of the impact of the modeling strategy on the results, a credible analysis of the signaling channel would call for the adoption of different term structure models. We feel that this goes beyond the scope of our paper.

14. In the EA core, we include countries whose AAA credit rating was never questioned in the period under review (Austria, Finland, Germany, and Netherlands). In the EA periphery, we include countries where re-pricing of sovereign risk took place but we exclude countries that lost market access as bond pricing signals for the latter group of countries might be distorted. This is the reason why we include only Italy and Spain in the EA periphery. However, including Ireland, Portugal, and Greece does not have strong implications on the results of the paper.

19. The ECB communicated the intention to “actively implement its Securities Markets Programme” on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

20. Using information on the total allotment before the auction takes place might be problematic if the sum finally allotted is not known in advance. Two considerations alleviate this concern. First, there could be market expectations on the size of the allotment. Second, before the auction, banks might start frontloading collateral (also government bonds) on the basis of their predetermined demand of liquidity that will be revealed (to the public) at the auction. In the robustness section, we do some tests on the ex-ante inclusion of the allotted amounts.

21. It is worth highlighting that our approach does not assume that the market

dummies.

27. An earlier version of this paper presented an impulse response analysis consistent with the findings of Neely.

28. The results above survive a number of robustness tests that are described in the next sections and in the online annex. For Italy and Spain, however, the positive impact of the SMP on equity prices crucially depends on the inclusion of the dummies for May 14, 2010 and August, 10 2011 which capture particularly bad days for global stock markets.

29. Also here, we assume that the effects of operations and announcements are permanent.

they increased on the day of the second SMP announcement on August 8, 2010.

33. For emerging markets, only announcements significantly reduced yields.

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