

## March Market Commentary Compliance Notes

3/2 Greek debt swap idea – similar to Germany in 1953 – calms markets: Greek stock market up 10% in one day

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2015/feb/03/greek-debt-swap-plan-calms-markets-business-live>

Varoufakis 188k vs Osborne 103k Tsipras 96k Cameron 908k Miliband 376k

What YV learned from video game economics

<http://www.vox.com/2015/1/28/7924485/yannis-varoufakis-video-games>

5/2 Global debt has risen \$57tn since 2007/8 crisis

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31136707>

13/2 Truce agreed in Ukraine after 17 hours of talks

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/12/ukraine-crisis-reports-emerge-of-agreement-in-minsk-talks>

17/2 Fighting continues in Ukraine despite truce – key town of Debaltseve

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-31495099>

Greece

5/2 Greece holds talks with Germany as ECB turns the screw: shares and bonds

tumble <http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2015/feb/05/greece-germany-debt-talks-ecb-collateral-rules-live>

6/2 Debt relief talks between German and Greek finance ministers reach no agreement – Schauble “he can’t even dress properly”

9/2 Another hardline speech from Tsipras sees Greek bond yields surge higher and the stock market fall by 4% - Greek bank shares down 25% in 3 days

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2015/feb/09/greek-bailout-crisis-tsipras-bridging-loan-live-updatges>

As some analysts now put the possibility of a Grexit as high as 50% as David Cameron met with Treasury and BofE officials to plan how to protect the UK if the Grexit happens.

Greenspan predicts Grexit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31249907>

12/2 Latest talks with European finance ministers fail – no joint statement

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2015/feb/12/greek-bailout-talks-eurogroup-eu-summit-live-updates>

13/2 Hopes for deal improve

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2015/feb/13/eurozone-growth-figures-and-greek-debt-crisis-live-updates> But Varoufakis compares Troika to CIA ‘waterboarding’

17/2 Greece back in trouble – reminiscent of the hokey-cokey. Tsipras “we won’t give in to blackmail.” Schaeuble – “Greece must make up its mind.”

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31499815>

18/2 Greece wants 6 months extension – and best analysis of key dates

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31499815>

19/2 Greece formally asks for an extension – pledging fiscal neutrality – Germany says no <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31532755>

Greek banks get extra money from ECB as money continues to leave the country €3.3bn increase to €68.3bn – some reports suggest €2bn a week is leaving Greece <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31517363> Possible rift between Germany and EU ‘at highest level.’

21/2 Deal is done – not quite at one minute to midnight – but widely seen as a major climbdown by Greece: Tsipras says tough job selling it to Greek people

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-31564846>

Deal would only be for four months – Eurozone ministers must approve the reforms on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

24/2 Greece submits doc in bid to extend deal – a six page blueprint expected to be endorsed in Brussels, allowing the bailout plan to be extended until June. All they have to do is sell continuing austerity to the Greek people.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/23/greece-drafts-three-page-menu-of-reforms-to-appease-eurozone>

Hopefully we’ll collect more tax and a crackdown on illicit fuel and tobacco sales

28/2 German MPs back Greek loan extension as small riots break out in Athens

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-31654898>

## **UK**

UK politicians could focus on hedge-trimmers – cost of having your windows cleaned – as opposed to hedge funds

5/2 Tesco under investigation by the Groceries Code Adjudicator – may have breached practices by unfairly delaying payment to suppliers and in the way it handled payments for shelf promotions

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/05/tesco-faces-investigation-over-how-it-pays-suppliers>

BT agrees £12bn deal to buy EE

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/05/bt-to-buy-ee-4g-broadband>

6/2 Poundland buys rival 99p stores for £55m

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/06/poundland-buys-rival-99p-stores>

9/2 HSBC helped clients cheat taxman of millions

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31248913>

HMRC says finding Scottish taxpayers 'more complex' than expected – to pay new Scottish rate of tax <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-31194496>

13/2 UK construction sector slows down more than expected  
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/13/uk-construction-sector-slows-down-more-than-expected>

Mark Carney says inflation could turn negative in the Spring  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31438213>

17/2 UK inflation falls to record low – down to 0.3% in January with lower fuel and food prices the main driver <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31501805>

Interesting to see if Osborne hails this as a triumph in the Budget

House prices up by 9.8% in year to December says ONS  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31501707>

18/2 UK unemployment falls to 1.86m <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31515556>

21/2 UK finances £8.8bn in surplus in January – Government on course to reduce borrowing this year <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31548170>

24/2 North Sea oil and gas  
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/24/north-sea-oil-and-gas-industry-suffers-worst-losses-in-decades>

Loses £5.3bn in 2014.

Record high 6,930.2 on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1999 – 6,949.63 closing level on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31611261> Level last seen at height of dot com boom

## **Europe**

6/2 Merkel and Hollande travel to Europe to try and resolve Ukraine problem Hi Susanna/Jen <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/05/hollande-merkel-kiev-ukraine-proposal-us>

9/2 Good news for Germany as seasonally adjusted exports hit a record high in December, up by 3.4% month on month. Imports dropped by 0.8%, helping to push Germany to a record trade surplus. And with QE – and the threat of the Grexit – keeping the euro low, German firms look well placed to profit from this.

12/2 Latest Ukraine talks fail  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/12/ukraine-crisis-reports-emerge-of-agreement-in-minsk-talks>

13/2 Germany beats forecasts with 0.7% rise France only grows at 0.1%

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2015/feb/13/eurozone-growth-figures-and-greek-debt-crisis-live-updates>

Figures are for Q4, 2014 – Italy zero growth. German growth in Q4 means UK can no longer claim to be fastest growing large economy in Europe

German confidence at a 12 month high <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31503775> Boosted by action of ECB and high economic growth

Swiss police raid HSBC's Geneva headquarters

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31516416>

28/2 Jump in VW profits <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31663431>

## US

6/2 Twitter shares soar as ad revenues rise

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/feb/05/twitter-shares-soar-revenue-increase-growth-slowing> - but users below expectations

25/2 Yellen says Fed can be flexible on setting rates – propels both Dow and S&P to record highs <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31610490>

US jobs market booms as recovery accelerates

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31167969>

## Far East

19/2 Japan index at 15 yr as trade deficit halves in January due to lower oil price and strong rise in exports <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31529128>

## And finally

Sitting is the new cancer/ten minutes to the hour

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/feb/11/tim-cook-apple-sitting-the-new-cancer>

**Trade figures:** <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/>