

FBI judges Clinton careless but not criminal in email inquiry

◆ 110 ‘secret’ messages in private account ◆ Republicans seize on ‘pattern of dishonesty’

DEMETRI SEVASTOPULO — WASHINGTON

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has concluded Hillary Clinton was “extremely careless” in handling top secret emails while secretary of state but recommended against prosecuting the Democratic presidential candidate.

James Comey, the FBI director, said investigators had found 110 emails where Mrs Clinton had either sent or received classified information on her private email account. That conclusion contradicted multiple statements by Mrs Clinton that she had never transmitted information marked as secret at the time it was sent.

Still, Mr Comey said his investigators found no evidence Mrs Clinton “intended to violate laws” and there was no precedent of senior officials facing criminal charges for similar offences — although he acknowledged such breaches in the past had led to “security or administrative actions” rather than prosecution.

“Any reasonable person in Secretary Clinton’s position . . . should have known that an unclassified system was no place for that conversation,” Mr Comey said.

The end of the year-long probe into Mrs Clinton’s decision to conduct government business on personal email servers, and the decision not to recommend prosecution to the justice department, almost certainly removes Mrs Clinton from any legal jeopardy. Loretta Lynch, the US attorney-general, has stated she would abide by the FBI’s recommendation in the case.

The Clinton campaign said it was “pleased” with the decision. “As the secretary has long said, it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again,” said Brian Fallon, spokesman for Mrs Clinton.

But the finding that Mrs Clinton was lax in handling sensitive information — Mr Comey said her behaviour made it possible for “hostile actors” to access



Hillary Clinton ‘should have known an unclassified system was no place for [secret] conversation, said James Comey — Kevin Lamarque/AP

‘Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information’

James Comey,
FBI director

her email — will play into the hands of Republican Donald Trump ahead of November’s election. He took to Twitter to say the decision was evidence of the “rigged system” that he faces. “FBI director said Crooked Hillary compromised our national security. No charges. Wow! #RiggedSystem,” he tweeted.



Donald Trump
Republican candidate

Via Twitter:
‘FBI director said Crooked Hillary compromised our national security. No charges. Wow! #RiggedSystem’

Although he was appointed to the FBI by Democrat Barack Obama, Mr Comey spent years as a senior prosecutor in Republican George W Bush’s justice department.

Paul Ryan, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, said the FBI decision “defies explanation”. He said Americans would “reject this troubling pattern of dishonesty and poor judgment” by Mrs Clinton, who according to many opinion polls has struggled to convince voters she is trustworthy.

Despite the decision not to prosecute, Mr Comey used strong language over Mrs Clinton’s use of the personal email server. He singled out her use of the account when overseas, including in the “territory of sophisticated adversaries”.

The investigation was seen as one of

the most sensitive in Washington for years because it involved a presidential candidate and former secretary of state.

In a rare move, Mr Comey stressed he had not told anyone what he was going to say before he delivered what he described as an “unusual statement”.

Ms Lynch’s decision to cede decision making to Mr Comey came after she had a highly criticised impromptu conversation last month with Bill Clinton, former president, in public at Phoenix airport.

Mr Comey said while there was “potential violation” of laws governing the handling of secret information, “no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case” because there was no evidence of “clearly intentional or wilful mishandling of classified information”.

Legal threat removed page 4

Briefing

► **Chevron bucks trend with \$37bn move**
US oil company Chevron has bucked an industry trend of delayed and cancelled investments by agreeing a \$36.8bn expansion of the Tengiz oilfield in Kazakhstan. — PAGE 13

► **Moscow revels in post-Brexit turmoil**
A quip by Sergei Lavrov, Russian foreign minister, hinted that some in the Kremlin are in a giddy mood in the wake of Britain’s shock vote to leave the EU and the difficulties it presents to the bloc. — PAGE 2



► **Australian PM rejects calls to resign**
Malcolm Turnbull, prime minister, has rejected calls for his resignation over his government’s poor performance in Australia’s election, which could result in a hung parliament. — PAGE 5

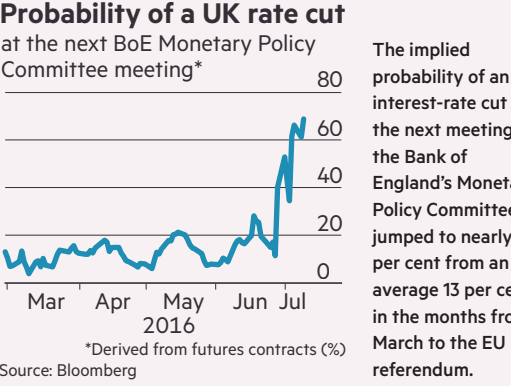
► **Modi appeals to castes and regions**
Narendra Modi inducted 19 ministers into India’s government yesterday in an attempt to appeal to constituencies beyond his party’s traditional base and with an eye on forthcoming elections. — PAGE 5

► **Iranian state-linked bank chiefs quit**
A scandal over the high salaries of directors at Iranian state-affiliated companies has triggered resignations at the Islamic republic’s four main banks and its sovereign wealth fund. — PAGE 4

► **German car groups raided in steel probe**
Six of Germany’s largest carmakers and parts groups — including VW, BMW, Daimler and Bosch — were raided by the cartel authority amid allegations of collusion in buying steel. — PAGE 13

► **Goldman faces inquiry over 1MDB**
US Department of Justice officials are investigating Goldman Sachs over its handling of the proceeds of securities offerings for 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), a state investment fund. — PAGE 15

Datawatch



French terror probe calls for intelligence shake-up

Report ► PAGE 4

Austria	€3.60	Luxembourg	€3.60
Bahrain	Dh17	Macedonia	Den220
Belgium	€3.60	Malta	€3.50
Bulgaria	Lev750	Morocco	Dh45
Croatia	Kn2750	Netherlands	€3.60
Cyprus	€3.50	Norway	Nkr35
Czech Rep	Kc100	Oman	OR150
Denmark	DkK22	Pakistan	Rupee280
Egypt	£E20	Poland	Z18
Finland	€4.10	Portugal	€3.50
France	€3.60	Qatar	QR15
Germany	€3.60	Romania	Ron17
Gibraltar	£2.70	Russia	€5.00
Greece	€3.50	Serbia	NewD420
Hungary	Ft1090	Slovak Rep	€3.60
India	Rup75	Slovenia	€3.50
Italy	€3.50	Spain	€3.50
Kazakhstan	US\$55.00	Sweden	Skr37
Kenya	Ksh300	Switzerland	Sfr5.90
Latvia	€6.99	Tunisia	Din750
Lebanon	LBP7500	Turkey	TL10
Lithuania	€4.30	UAE	Dh15.00

Subscribe In print and online

www.ft.com/subscribe today
email: fte.subs@ft.com
Tel: +44 20 7775 6000
Fax: +44 20 7873 3428

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2016
No: 39,208★

Printed in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Frankfurt, Brussels, Milan, Madrid, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington DC, Orlando, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Dubai



UK property funds trigger lock-ins as post-Brexit asset sell-off gathers pace

CHRIS GILES AND JUDITH EVANS
LONDON

Investors have been barred from cashing in assets in two more commercial property funds amid widespread disposals of UK assets on fears that the economic fallout from last month’s vote to leave the EU is gathering pace.

On a turbulent day in financial markets, a flight to safety saw government bond yields hit record lows, sterling falling to below \$1.30 for the first time since 1985 and the trade-weighted value of the pound fall to its lowest level since 2011.

The stop on property fund redemptions and market gyrations came after Mark Carney, Bank of England governor, pledged to keep banks lending but said his fears of the consequences of Brexit had “begun to crystallise”.

UK commercial property funds hold-

ing more than £9bn of investor assets have now halted redemptions, including M&G’s £4.4bn Property Portfolio, Britain’s largest commercial property fund. It followed similar moves by a £1.8bn fund from Aviva and a £2.9bn Standard Life fund.

The moves sparked concern that forced selling of buildings by investment funds could act as the catalyst for a steep drop in commercial property prices, as happened during the 2008 financial crisis. “You can very quickly get a downdraught moving through the market,” said Robert Duncan, analyst at Numis Securities.

The news put renewed pressure on sterling as investors sought safer options outside the UK, sending Switzerland’s 50-year bond yield below zero for the first time. The 10-year Treasury yield, a crucial benchmark for global

interest rates, fell below 1.36 per cent and into uncharted territory. Germany, France, Switzerland and Australia also saw all-time lows in yield for their 10-year benchmarks. The pound fell more than 2 per cent to a low of \$1.2997 against the dollar and dropped sharply against the euro and yen.

Stress in the commercial property sector was one of the main concerns of Mr Carney as he presented the BoE’s twice-yearly financial stability report.

In a bid to ensure credit supply remains robust, he announced an easing in the amount of capital banks must hold, but accepted that the problems were more likely to stem from a drop in the demand for loans in the UK.

Brexit fallout pages 2&3
Patrick Jenkins page 9
Property fund analysis page 17
Lex page 12

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Jul 5	prev	%chg		Jul 5	prev			price	yield	chg
S&P 500	2085.59	2102.95	-0.83	\$ per €	1.111	1.114	€ per \$	0.900	102.44	1.36	-0.08
Nasdaq Composite	4808.45	4862.57	-1.11	\$ per £	1.305	1.329	£ per \$	0.766	105.80	0.90	-0.07
Dow Jones Ind	17832.74	17949.37	-0.65	€ per £	0.851	0.838	¥ per £	1.175	106.65	-0.18	0.00
FTSEurofirst 300	1285.97	1305.96	-1.53	¥ per \$	101.555	102.535	¥ per €	112.818	103.62	-0.24	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	2812.72	2862.21	-1.73	£ index	132.509	136.259	£ index	79.747	108.09	2.13	-0.09
FTSE 100	6545.37	6522.26	0.35	€ index	88.412	88.462	\$ index	99.245	103.35	-0.69	0.00
FTSE All-Share	3514.46	3518.96	-0.13	Sfr per €	1.082	1.082	Sfr per £	1.271			
CAC 40	4163.42	4234.86	-1.69	COMMODITIES					price	prev	chg
Xetra Dax	9532.61	9709.09	-1.82		Jul 5	prev	%chg	Fed Funds Eff	0.37	0.37	0.00
Nikkei	15669.33	15775.80	-0.67	Oil WTI \$	46.84	48.76	-3.94	US 3m Bills	0.28	0.26	0.02
Hang Seng	20750.72	21059.20	-1.46	Oil Brent \$	48.05	50.10	-4.09	Euro Libor 3m	-0.30	-0.30	0.00
FTSE All World \$	262.39	265.15	-1.04	Gold \$	1350.75	1350.75	0.00	UK 3m	0.52	0.52	-0.01
								Prices are latest for edition Data provided by Morningstar			

A Nikkei Company

DEMAND CORPORATE LEARNING THAT IMPACTS ON YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Our innovative programme designs let business leaders and their teams rapidly translate learning into practical results

Raise your corporate learning to the power of 11

Financial Times | IE Business School Corporate Learning Alliance gives business leaders and their companies a powerful and measurable advantage from our global network of 11 business schools and more than 500 educators.

Find out more at ftiecla.com

FINANCIAL TIMES | IE Business School

Corporate Learning Alliance

Real-world corporate learning

INTERNATIONAL

Brussels

UK eyes diplomat for commission role

Ambassador to France in the running to fill vacancy left by Lord Hill

ALEX BARKER — BRUSSELS

Britain is poised to nominate Sir Julian King, a diplomat and old Brussels hand, as European commissioner to fill the gap left by Jonathan Hill.

David Cameron, the outgoing prime minister, has suggested Sir Julian, ambassador to France, as an apolitical appointment to make sure Britain is not left unrepresented at the EU's executive body led by Jean-Claude Juncker.

Britain remains a full member of the EU, but much of its influence on day-to-day business in Brussels evaporated after the UK voted to leave the EU.

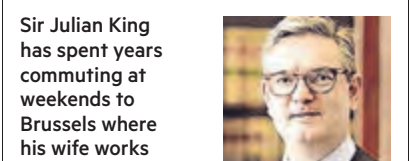
Lord Hill relinquished his portfolio overseeing Europe's financial sector in the days after the vote and will formally leave his post in mid-July.

The nomination of a successor is complicated by the need for a confirmation hearing in the European Parliament. MEPs are expected to be hostile to any political nominee who backed Brexit. Under EU law commissioners are expected to show independence and "European commitment".

Mr Cameron and Mr Juncker have spoken about the nomination options, and the commission president and his team have sounded out several leading MEPs over Sir Julian's suitability, according to officials familiar with the process.

While Sir Julian's diplomatic background may help to overcome political

hurdles in Brussels, his nomination could prove contentious with Brexit-supporting candidates to replace Mr Cameron as Conservative party leader and prime minister.



Sir Julian King has spent years commuting at weekends to Brussels where his wife works

Sir Julian's 30-year Foreign Office career has included long stints of EU work, including as ambassador to the EU handling security issues. He served in the commission for a year, running the office of Lord Mandelson and Baroness Ashton when they were trade commissioners.

He was appointed ambassador to Paris in February but has spent years commuting at weekends to Brussels, where his wife Lotte Knudsen works in the EU's diplomatic service.

Downing Street said a formal nomination had not been made. "This is an important role and we are making sure that we have a person in place to replace Lord Hill," it added.

When asked last week about the appointment of a successor to Lord Hill, Mr Cameron said: "I think we should appoint a new commissioner. We are a full member of this organisation. We pay our dues in full."

He hoped to "come forward with a nominee shortly", he added.

Under EU law Mr Juncker could choose to leave the position unfilled or appoint someone from a different

member state. However, in practice all 28 EU countries have one appointee in the college of commissioners.

Questions remain over the portfolio for Lord Hill's successor. The return of the powerful financial services portfolio is out of the question, but UK officials hope that Britain's commissioner will still have substantial responsibilities.

One alternative would be for the new appointee to take on a commissioner-without-portfolio role, with responsibilities limited to college discussions of big policy decisions. The EU treaty states that commissioners should be chosen "on the grounds of their general competence and European commitment from persons whose independence is beyond doubt".

Editorial Comment page 8
Martin Wolf page 9

Electoral tests

Votes in Hungary and Austria threaten more EU angst

ANDREW BYRNE — BUDAPEST

Europe faces the risk of further political setbacks this autumn after authorities in Hungary and Austria chose the same October date for two separate votes that will pit rightwing forces against EU institutions and mainstream politicians.

Janos Ader, president of Hungary, said yesterday that the central European country would hold a referendum on October 2 on Brussels' plan to share refugees out across the EU — stoking debate on a policy that has proved difficult to enforce.

Separately, Wolfgang Sobotka, the Austrian interior minister, said he would propose holding a re-run of the presidential election — ordered by the country's constitutional court — on the same day. Norbert Hofer, a nationalist candidate, came close to winning the original contest and the re-run raises the prospect of the election of the EU's first far-right head of state.

The announcements come as Europe reels from Britain's June 23 vote to leave the EU and will raise fears of further blows for the bloc's attempts to shape a common response to the migration crisis and shore up public support for European institutions.

Viktor Orban, Hungarian prime minister, who has criticised the EU and portrayed its leaders as a remote and illegitimate elite, first announced the referendum in February.

The Austrian election re-run was ordered because of irregularities during the original May 22 poll.

The timing of the votes means they are likely to overshadow a September 22 meeting of EU leaders in Bratislava to consider the bloc's future in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Mr Orban has cast the UK vote as a consequence of the European elite's failure to heed popular anger over the arrival of more than 1m refugees in Europe last year. Although an EU-Turkey deal to stem new arrivals has reduced the influx, Mr Orban has proposed halting immigration by deploying armed forces in neighbouring countries beyond the bloc's frontiers.

"Is it the goal of European policy to stop migrants at the borders, to keep processes under control, to conduct procedures outside our borders and to then decide on admitting certain individuals? Is this our goal?" Mr Orban said last month. "Or is it our goal to let them in, and to redistribute them later?"

Despite an EU agreement to relocate 160,000 refugees from Greece and Italy to other European countries — including 1,294 to Hungary — Budapest has accepted none under the plan.

Hungarian voters will be asked: "Do you want the European Union to prescribe the mandatory settlement of non-Hungarian citizens in Hungary even without the consent of parliament?"

Both votes will deepen concern over a wave of populist anger that could undermine the EU's political foundations. Mr Hofer has said Austria should hold its own vote on EU membership within a year if the bloc centralises more decision making, while Hungarian lawmakers have expressed reservations about continued membership of the bloc.

Russia. Schadenfreude

Kremlin revels in geopolitical rival's turmoil

Some in Moscow hope Brexit will empower pro-Putin populist forces in Europe

KATHRIN HILLE — MOSCOW

When Sergei Lavrov attended a lunch with EU ambassadors last week, the Russian foreign minister could not resist making a joke at his hosts' expense. Once Brexit was completed, Mr Lavrov quipped, "the EU will have only one vote left in the UN Security Council".

His lunch mates may have struggled to appreciate his humour. But Mr Lavrov's remark hinted at the giddy mood among Moscow's political elite following Britain's shock vote and the hard times now befalling the EU, a geopolitical rival whose growth, many Russians believe, has long come at their expense.

"Of course there are more than a few people here that feel schadenfreude right now," says Fyodor Lukyanov, chairman of the Council on Foreign and Defence Policy in Moscow.

Above all, many Russians view the British vote as a popular rejection of Europe's political establishment that vindicates Moscow.

For most of President Vladimir Putin's 16 years in power, European politicians have criticised his crackdown on civil liberties and accused him of undermining democracy.

Their disagreements spiralled into open stand-off when European governments threw their support behind Ukraine's Maidan revolution, an uprising Mr Putin denounced as a western-backed coup. For more than two years, the west has punished Russia with economic sanctions.

"It is important for the leadership in Russia to see their view of the world, their view of Europe — European values, an ideal Europe — vindicated," says Andrei Kortunov, director-general of the Russian International Affairs Council.

Citing German chancellor Angela

Merkel's remark from the height of the Ukraine crisis that Mr Putin was "living in another world", Mr Kortunov says: "Merkel could still say that about him, but he could reply: 'Yes, I do live in a different world, but my world is more real than yours.' His view of the world can't be simply dismissed any more."

Even before Ukraine, Mr Putin and many others in Russia recoiled from modern Europe in puzzlement, even disgust. In their view, the continent had abandoned such traditional values as national pride, respect for law and order, Christianity and the family for the sake of excessive tolerance and diversity.

Some in Moscow hope the Brexit vote is a harbinger of political shifts in Europe that will empower populist forces more sympathetic to Mr Putin's world view. One example is Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front and a Putin admirer.

"It's obvious that all changes now, be it in France or Germany or elsewhere, will be much more in favour of Russia," Mr Lukyanov says.

Beyond the strategic benefits, there may also be an emotional dimension to Brexit. For those Russians who lived through the collapse of the Soviet Union — an event that Mr Putin has called the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century — the first sign of the EU's fragmentation resonates deeply.

"That's the real context in which Putinists see Brexit: the break-up of the Soviet Union robbed them of their empire and exposed them of a constant loss of global power, and now they think the same might happen to Britain or even the entire EU," says a European diplomat in Moscow.

Perhaps with that in mind, Mr Lukyanov and other foreign policy experts worry about the consequences for Russia of an EU in turmoil.

"Decision mechanisms could become so dysfunctional that they can't even get their act together to lift sanctions against Russia," he warns.

For now, Moscow is trying to exploit



Vladimir Putin, with Angela Merkel in Belarus last year, has started a push for rapprochement between Russia and Europe

Mykola Lazarenko/AFP/Getty

Europe's sense of crisis, if ever so subtly. While EU governments try to deal with the Brexit aftermath, Mr Putin has started a push for rapprochement between Russia and Europe.

On Friday, Vladimir Yakunin, one of his longest-running associates, launched a think-tank in Berlin that he says will focus on fostering a dialogue of civilisations.

Mr Yakunin suggests that the Soviet experience of running a multi-ethnic country is one topic that could provide valuable lessons for an EU struggling with migration.

"Right here in central Europe we see the appearance of phenomena that create colossal tension all over the world: terrorism, xenophobia, extremism," Mr Yakunin says. "From that perspective, the experience of Russia might be in demand."

'The coalition of nations, which pushed hard for sanctions, is decapitated'

Moscow also dreams of one day linking the EU to Mr Putin's own customs union pet project, the Eurasian Economic Union.

But in the short term, Moscow's most palpable hope is that Britain's waning influence will strengthen those in the EU who want to gradually lift sanctions.

With staunch UK support, Ms Merkel rallied support last month to extend the blockade for another six months.

"The coalition of concerned nations, which always pushed hard for sanctions, is now decapitated," says Alexander Rahr, a prominent Russia expert at the German-Russian Forum, a Russia-friendly dialogue platform in Berlin.

Mr Rahr adds: "Maybe after Brexit Merkel might feel more at ease to pursue a softer line."

Obituary Iranian film pioneer who depicted ordinary lives

Abbas Kiarostami

Film director 1940-2016

Abbas Kiarostami, who has died in Paris aged 76, was a celebrated Iranian film director, whose minimalist *Taste of Cherry* was awarded the Palme d'Or at the 1997 Cannes festival.

Kiarostami never relocated from the country of his birth, even though he announced about a decade ago that he would not make any more films in Iran. Intellectual in nature, his movies were seen as portraying a dark picture of life under the Islamic republic, and he came under repeated official pressure.

In a Twitter post, centrist President Hassan Rouhani nonetheless praised "the different and deep views of Abbas Kiarostami toward life", saying he was someone "who invited human beings to peace and friendship, which will remain as an enduring achievement" in the country's cinematic history.

The director succumbed to a stroke after a series of operations for ulcerative colitis. His last film, *Like Someone in Love*, was made in Japan in 2012.

While Iran's history of film-making dates from the 1950s, it was Kiarostami who paved the way for other directors to shine at world festivals by introducing Iranian art-house cinema, which is internationally praised for its rich language and realist themes.

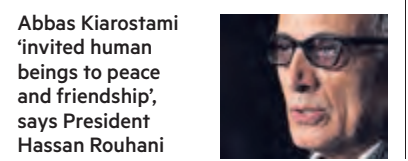
Asghar Farhadi, known for *A Separation*, *The Past* and *The Salesman*, and Jafar Panahi, whose work includes *White Balloon*, *Crimson Gold* and *Taxi*, have also

been feted at film festivals in Cannes and Berlin and honoured at the Oscars and the Golden Globes.

Born on June 22 1940 and educated in affluent northern Tehran, he was admitted to study painting at Tehran university. After graduating he chose to be a graphic designer, which included making posters and the opening credits for movies.

He then joined the state affiliated Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in 1969 where he made films for children.

But his fame came after the 1979



Abbas Kiarostami 'invited human beings to peace and friendship', says President Hassan Rouhani

Islamic revolution, when clerical rulers rolled back what they considered decadent "Film Farsi" — popular Iranian movies that demonstrated little restraint on sexual scenes in a highly conservative society.

That created an opening for Kiarostami's work, which mostly depicted the lives of ordinary Iranians. *Where is the Friend's Home* showed the tireless efforts of a boy to find his friend's house to give him a notebook he had left behind; *Through the Olive Trees* depicted love in

an earthquake-hit region; *The Wind Will Carry Us* revolved around a group of city dwellers awaiting the death of an old woman in a village, to demonstrate the differences between urban and rural lifestyles.

Filming abroad freed Kiarostami to an extent from public censure. That could make itself felt not just over his films but in instances such as a Cannes kiss he gave French actress Catherine Deneuve, which was considered an un-Islamic act.

Set in Tuscany, his *Certified Copy* in 2010 starred Juliette Binoche. It showed a British writer and a French antiques dealer whose relationship undergoes an odd transformation over the course of a day. The film was originally banned in Iran because of Ms Binoche's low-cut dress but was screened last year in the international section of Fajr Film Festival, the country's biggest.

Kiarostami, who was divorced, is survived by his sons Ahmad and Bahman, who are active in multimedia and documentary making respectively.

Martin Scorsese, the Hollywood director, called him "truly, one of our great artists".

Or as Jean-Luc Godard, the French-Swiss film-maker, once said about his Iranian peer: "Cinema begins with [Hollywood pioneer] DW Griffith and ends with Abbas Kiarostami."

Najmeh Bozorgmehr and Monavar Khalaj

MAKE A SMART INVESTMENT

Subscribe to the FT today at ft.com/subscription

FINANCIAL TIMES

1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Subscriptions & Customer service:
Tel: +44 207 775 6000, ftsubs@ft.com,
www.ft.com/subscribe

Advertising:
Tel: +44 20 7873 3794, asiaads@ft.com,
emeaads@ft.com

Letters to the editor:
Fax: +44 20 7873 5938,
letters.editor@ft.com

Executive appointments:
Tel: +44 20 7873 4909
www.exec-appointments.com

Published by: The Financial Times Limited, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 20 7873 3000; Fax: +44 20 7407 5700. Editor: Lionel Barber.

Belgium: BEA Printing sprl, 16 Rue de Bosquet, Nivelles 1400.

Germany: Dogan Media Group, Hurriyet AS Branch Germany, An der Brücke 20-22, 64546 Morfelden-Walldorf. Responsible Editor, Lionel Barber. Responsible for advertising content, Dominic Good.

Italy: Poligrafica Europa, S.r.l. Villasanta (MB), Via Enrico Mattei 2, Ecocity - Building No.8. Milan.

Owner: The Financial Times Limited; Rappresentante e Direttore Responsabile in Italia: I.M.D.Srl-Marco Provassi - Via G. Puercher, 2 20037 Paderno Dugnano (MI), Italy. Milano n. 296 del 08/05/08 - Poste Italiane SpA-Sped. in Abb.Post.DL. 353/2003 (conv. L. 27/02/2004-n.46) art. 1, comma 1, DCB Milano.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurozone deficits

Spain and Portugal head for EU clash

Tensions set to rise as Madrid and Lisbon face penalties over fiscal rules

JIM BRUNSDEN — BRUSSELS
TOBIAS BUCK — MADRID

Spain and Portugal are on course to become the first eurozone countries to be sanctioned for breaking EU fiscal rules, in a move that is set to inflame tensions over how dogmatic Brussels should be in policing national budgets. The European Commission yesterday concluded the two countries had failed to take “effective action” to meet EU deficit rules, according to people briefed on the talks. While EU officials presented the step as essentially procedural, it is nevertheless potentially explosive as it puts Spain and Portugal on a path to penalties that could include fines or a partial suspension of EU regional funds. The commission recommendation is expected to be formally approved tomorrow, after which it will be for finance ministers to decide if they agree. Should they back the commission stance, this would start the clock on a 20-day process for Brussels to prepare the penalties, with Lisbon and Madrid able to make a last-ditch case for more lenient treatment. While there is a strong chance the EU

will set any fines at a nominal or even zero level, the gesture is still likely to prove controversial. Portuguese authorities have already warned that any step to apply a sanction could cause the country reputational damage on the markets at a time when it is trying to nurture its recovery. EU tax policy chief Pierre Moscovici, speaking after a discussion yesterday in the commission’s decision-making college, said Brussels “will adopt the necessary decisions very soon”. He said EU budget rules “have to be respected”, adding, however, the standards “are

also intelligent and they demand to be applied in an intelligent way”. The timing is highly awkward for the commission, with Spain still in a period of flux after its second inconclusive general election in six months, and with the EU seeking to pull itself together after the shock of the British referendum. The commission’s moves mark the reactivation of a process that was put on hold in May because of concerns it could have affected the June 26 Spanish election. The step hands a hot potato to EU finance ministers who are already grappling with a rift within the eurozone

Economy minister De Guindos lifts growth prediction to 3.2%

Spain’s economy is growing faster than expected and could expand by more than 3.2 per cent this year, the government said yesterday. Luis de Guindos, economy minister, said the official prediction of 2.7 per cent growth in output was “clearly too prudent”, pointing to recent economic data and the result of last month’s general election. He said the official forecast would be revised up before the end of the month. Spain’s economy grew by 3.2 per cent in 2015, one of the fastest rates in the EU. “If we are able to form a stable government with a good economic policy agenda, it is possible to exceed the growth rate we achieved

last year,” Mr de Guindos told the Financial Times. The general election produced an unexpectedly clear victory for prime minister Mariano Rajoy and his conservative Popular party. Spain has also been boosted by better than expected employment numbers, and upbeat manufacturing and services sector data. The labour ministry on Monday revealed a drop in unemployment for June of 124,349 — the second-biggest monthly decline on record. Yesterday, data provider Markit said Spain’s services sector had expanded in June at the fastest pace in seven months. Tobias Buck, Madrid

over how much flexibility nations should be given over public finances. While Germany, Finland, the Netherlands and the European Central Bank insist that firm application of the budget rules is essential to maintain confidence in the euro, Italy has led a push from many southern European members for more flexibility. A spokeswoman for Slovakia, which holds the EU’s rotating presidency, said ministers would discuss the issue at a meeting in Brussels next week. Portugal is in the EU commission’s crosshairs for failing to control its deficit in 2015; its deficit was 4.4 per cent of gross domestic product last year, 1.7 percentage points higher than its target. Lisbon’s government has argued it is unfair to punish the country for past failings even though Portugal is on course to comply with EU budget rules in 2016. Spain is estimated to have smashed its 2015 deficit target of 4.2 per cent of GDP to reach 5.1 per cent. It is also on course to miss its target to bring its deficit below 3 per cent in 2016. The commission decision came on the same day that Spain’s economy minister, Luis de Guindos, announced plans to lift the country’s official growth forecast, citing better than expected economic data and the result of last month’s general election. Mr de Guindos is set to meet members of the EU commission tomorrow in Brussels.

GLOBAL INSIGHT
ROME

Tony Barber



Italy’s referendum holds key to survival of currency union

Europe’s faultline runs through Italy. Such was the candid opinion of one participant in a conference held last weekend by Eliamep, an Athens-based think-tank. Few other participants dissented. By “Europe” everyone understood, primarily, the 19-nation eurozone. For the question on the minds of European policymakers is where, and to what extent, political, financial and economic contagion may spread from Britain’s June 23 vote to leave the EU. The sharp falls in Italian banks’ share prices since the British referendum indicate where financial markets smell the danger of contagion. But Italy is the focus of attention not only because of its undercapitalised banks, colossal public debt and miserable economic growth. Rather, EU governments and the markets sense trouble ahead in the way that Italy’s uncertain political outlook feeds into these problems, making them even harder to tackle. Their paramount concern is the referendum on far-reaching constitutional reforms that Matteo Renzi, Italy’s centre-left prime minister, plans to hold in October. If voters reject these reforms, Mr Renzi says he will resign. Naturally the ever inventive, insouciant premier is free to retract his promise. However, he has staked much on this referendum, having described the reforms as essential for Italy’s reconstruction as a responsibly governed nation. Defeat would damage Mr Renzi and risk driving Italy into prolonged political and economic instability. Confindustria, Italy’s employers’ group, predicts that defeat would cause the economy to shrink by 0.7 per cent in 2017 and 1.2 per cent in 2018.

Defeat for Renzi might boost the fortunes of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement

Apart from putting Italian banks under more stress, such a recession would undo the good work of Mr Renzi’s government since 2014 in restoring a modicum of economic growth and modestly reducing unemployment. In a country that has recorded almost no growth since it became a eurozone founder member in 1999, and whose public debt is more than 130 per cent of annual economic output, this would be a heavy blow. Equally important, defeat for Mr Renzi might boost the fortunes of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement. This party, founded by blogger-comedian Beppe Grillo, opposes the constitutional reforms. It is wholly inexperienced in government at national level, but it showed its strength last month by winning mayoral elections in Rome and Turin. At present, the movement is just a few percentage points behind Mr Renzi’s Democratic party (PD) in opinion polls. Parliamentary elections are due in 2018 and only a rash forecaster would write off the Five Star Movement’s chances. A referendum defeat for Mr Renzi may place the fate of Italy, a nation crucial to the survival of Europe’s currency union, in the hands of an idiosyncratic party that merrily talks of pulling the country out of the eurozone. Yet a referendum victory for Mr Renzi would not eliminate all risks. The essence of his reform proposals is that Italy should dismantle its bicameral legislature, established in the 1948 constitution, and concentrate power in the lower house. Meanwhile, an electoral law passed by his government guarantees an absolute parliamentary majority for the party that wins a national election. Mr Renzi’s advisers defend these reforms on the grounds they will cure Italy of its chronic governmental instability. More than 60 governments have come and gone since 1945, holding office, on average, for little more than a year each. Should the reforms take effect and lead to a PD victory in 2018, a five-year spell of strong government dedicated to economic reform might indeed ensue. But if the Five Star Movement won, it would find itself — thanks to Mr Renzi’s reforms — in firm control of a legislature reshaped to emasculate opposition to the ruling party. Several banana skins lie in the EU’s path over the next 12 months, from a potential victory for the far right in Austria’s restaged presidential election in September to next year’s Dutch legislative and French presidential elections. But Italy’s referendum may be the most slippery banana skin of them all.

tony.barber@ft.com

Brussels retreat

Canada trade setback foreshadows Brexit hurdles

ARTHUR BEESLEY — LONDON

The prospect of a smooth post-Brexit trade deal between Britain and EU was dealt a blow after the European Commission scotched plans for the fast-track approval of a trade pact with Canada.

With political enthusiasm for big global trade deals on the wane as anti-establishment sentiment rises, the development suggests any British deal with the EU will face complications and hurdles well beyond the technical challenge of agreeing new trading terms. The commission’s retreat comes amid a slowdown in talks on an EU-US trade accord, and bitter rows in the US over a transpacific deal with Canada, Australia, Japan and eight other countries. It marks a setback to efforts by Ottawa to deepen trade links with Europe. Annual trade in goods and services between Canada and the EU is worth over €90bn. Talks on the EU-Canada agreement began in 2009, touching off squabbles over quotas for EU dairy products and Canadian meat. The commission celebrated when the two sides finally agreed to terms in 2013, lauding it as a stepping stone to an even bigger pact with the US. But the agreement will not come fully into force for years as formal approval is required from as many as 38 national and regional parliaments in the EU. Officials in Brussels were quick to draw the conclusion that any trade agreement with Britain would face the same requirements, raising the possibility of MPs in EU member states and their governments making a play for advantage in return for their support. “If we go this route, clearly any further agreement will go in the same direction,” said a senior commission official. Jean-Claude Juncker, the commission president, had hoped to bypass national parliaments in the EU-Canada pact by having the agreement approved by only trade ministers and MEPs. The commission insists this course remains open as the agreement centres



Annual trade in goods and services between Canada and the EU is worth more than €90bn

Ben Nelms/Bloomberg

on matters covered exclusively by EU law. But several member states protested, arguing some terms fell within the scope of their national law. Under pressure, the commission reversed course yesterday. It will allow provisional approval of the deal as a “mixed agreement” under EU and national law, while formal endorsement is awaited. “It reflects the challenges of concluding a trade agreement with a bloc composed of 27 or, as it is now, 28 members,” said Christophe Bondy of London law firm Volterra Fietta, who was previously senior counsel to Canada in the EU trade negotiation. “That is something that the UK is now going to have to face . . .” If anything, the UK faces a more daunting technical task than Canada,

according to Mr Bondy, because of its pre-existing relationship. “With the UK and the EU, there needs first to be a disentangling of a very extensive sphere of deeper integration and — either in parallel or after — to determine what the terms of the UK’s access to the EU market will be. That adds a significant level of complication.” The commission’s manoeuvre came in spite of divisions within the EU executive, where critics had made the case the institution was “giving up” on some of its prerogatives. Cecilia Malmström, EU trade commissioner, suggested anti-globalisation sentiment had infected the debate within member states. “The commission considers this agreement legally as an EU-only agree-

ment but we are proposing as an EU-mixed because we understand that there is no agreement among member states to do this,” Ms Malmström said. The proposed fast-track endorsement of the EU-Canada deal had met resistance in France, Austria and, to a lesser extent, in Germany. In addition, resolutions were passed in the parliaments of Hungary and Luxembourg demanding consultation on the Canadian deal with their MPs. Romania and Bulgaria have also said they would not support the deal due a visa dispute with Canada. High-level observers in Brussels believe any push for parliamentary approval of a British deal would meet similar pressures. Editorial Comment page 8

Future of Europe. Bloc extension

Balkan aspirants refuse to give up hope of accession after UK vote

Britain’s decision will make the cost of enlargement more burdensome for donor states

NEIL BUCKLEY — PARIS

At the Cité Universitaire in Paris on Monday, delegates to a Balkans youth forum whooped and snapped selfies as they celebrated the creation of an EU-backed youth co-operation office to foster reconciliation across the former Yugoslavia and Albania. At a business conference in the French capital earlier, economy ministers from six aspiring EU members from the Balkans had talked up their reform plans and investment opportunities. Later, at a summit hosted by French president François Hollande and attended by German chancellor Angela Merkel, Balkan leaders discussed secu-

arity and agreed on a €450m (\$501m) infrastructure programme, one-third funded by the EU. If the Brexit vote 11 days earlier had chucked a large spanner into the works of future EU enlargement, participants in the annual EU-western Balkans get-together were determined to give an impression of business as usual. “The British decision doesn’t change anything about the commitments that have been made with regard to the Balkans countries,” said Mr Hollande. Johannes Hahn, EU enlargement commissioner, agreed. “[Brexit] doesn’t mean that [EU] enlargement, particularly to the western Balkans, has come to an end. Quite the opposite,” Mr Hahn insisted. “There are very good reasons to enlarge, and I and the European Commission are determined to do so.” For all the official denials, however, the British referendum result represents a serious challenge to future EU

expansion, not just for existing candidates including Serbia, Albania, Montenegro and Turkey, but longer-term aspirants such as Ukraine. The UK had long been a vocal proponent of extending the bloc into ex-communist central and eastern Europe even as many EU states were losing their

appetite for enlargement. It, too, backed off as a referendum campaign dominated by immigration unfolded. Its exit could make EU enlargement even more unpalatable for the bloc’s remaining donor states by driving up the cost. “Clearly the whole EU enlargement



The British referendum result represents a serious challenge to the membership hopes of countries such as Serbia — Daniel Berehulak/Getty

project is dead in the water now,” says Timothy Ash, an emerging markets strategist at Nomura. “The EU27 has its head in the sand [in] thinking the political appetite . . . is still surviving.” Even if expansion is not entirely halted, its supporters fear the EU could become so preoccupied with Brexit negotiations that membership talks with candidates and efforts to prepare countries further down the queue could suffer. The prospect of EU membership has been a powerful incentive for pro-democracy reforms in the 11 ex-communist states that have joined since 2004, and in aspiring members in the Balkans. Without that prospect, maintaining the reform momentum could be difficult. For an organisation that rose from the ruins of Europe after the second world war, that could complicate efforts to cement peace in the Balkans two

decades after the post-Yugoslav conflicts. As Mr Hollande noted, the Balkans youth co-operation office established by this week’s summit is modelled on a Franco-German Youth Office set up in 1963. Waning EU influence in the Balkans could also open the door further for Russia, which has cultural ties with countries in the region through shared Slavic roots and the Orthodox Church. Milo Djukanovic, prime minister of Montenegro — which has faced angry criticism from Moscow over its coming accession to Nato — said even before the Brexit vote Russia had taken advantage of “disturbances in the global scene” to reassert itself in the region. He and fellow Balkan leaders on Monday played down the impact of the UK vote. But they conceded deep reforms of the union were probably now needed for enlargement to continue.

INTERNATIONAL

FBI decision removes legal threat to Clinton campaign

Criticism provides extra ammunition for Trump to attack Democratic rival



Under fire: Hillary Clinton campaigns in Washington yesterday. James Comey, FBI director, below, said she had been ‘careless’ — Michael Reynolds/EPA, Cliff Owen/AP

SAM FLEMING — WASHINGTON

The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s decision not to recommend criminal charges in relation to Hillary Clinton’s handling of secret information has dispelled a legal cloud hanging over the former secretary of state’s presidential campaign.

But blunt criticism levelled by James Comey, FBI director, at the “extremely careless” way Mrs Clinton and her aides treated classified information will leave her exposed to attacks from Republicans for the duration of the presidential campaign leading up to November.

What the FBI did

The FBI conducted a year-long investigation into whether classified information had been transferred via a personal email server Mrs Clinton used when she was secretary of state.

The probe came after the Intelligence Community Inspector General asked for a review into whether classified information was transmitted during Mrs Clinton’s use of a server kept in her house in Chappaqua, New York.

The FBI inquiry examined whether there was any evidence that classified information had been improperly stored or transmitted, something that could be a violation of a federal statute making it a felony to mishandle classified information. Another law makes it a misdemeanour to knowingly remove classified information from appropriate systems.

The FBI investigation required thou-

sands of hours of work as investigators pieced together evidence of how Mrs Clinton used personal email for government work. Investigators read approximately 30,000 emails provided by Mrs Clinton to the state department in 2014. The FBI also discovered several thousand additional work-related emails that were not in that body of 30,000 messages she provided.

Piecing together the email fragments “was like removing the frame from a huge finished jigsaw puzzle and dumping the pieces on the floor,” Mr Comey said.

What the FBI investigation found

Mr Comey said his staff had not found clear evidence that Mrs Clinton or her staff intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information.

There is, however, evidence that she and her team were “extremely careless” in how they handled sensitive information, the FBI director said.



Seven email chains were related to matters that were classified at the Top Secret/Special Access Programme level when sent and received, for example. None of the emails should have been on any kind of unclassified system, the FBI said. While only a handful of the emails bore markings suggesting they contained classified information, people who knew or should know the subject matter is classified are still obliged to protect it, Mr Comey said. Mrs Clinton has said that she did not send or receive any information that had been marked as classified when it was sent.

The FBI also found that Mrs Clinton used not one but several different servers during her four years at the state department, as well as numerous mobile devices to view and send email on that personal domain.

The agency also found evidence that the security culture of the state department in general was lacking when it came to handling secret information.

The FBI did not find any signs that Mrs Clinton had been hacked, but it would be difficult to find clear indications that this had happened in any case, Mr Comey said. “We assess it is possible that hostile actors gained access to Secretary Clinton’s personal email account,” he said.

No recommendation to prosecute

Despite evidence of careless conduct, Mr Comey said the FBI was not recommending that the Department of Justice bring criminal charges. Indeed, no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case, he said.

This is because a trawl of past investigations into classified information showed that past cases had involved either intentional and wilful mishandling of secret material, or the exposure of “vast quantities” of information pointing to intentional misconduct, or signs of disloyalty to the US. There were not signs of this in the Clinton case, Mr Comey concluded.

It will be up to the DoJ to decide on charges, but the FBI’s decision not to recommend action will carry enormous weight. As such, the announcement will come as a relief for Mrs Clinton.

Nevertheless, this is by no means the last we will hear of the email furore, and Mr Comey himself acknowledged the FBI decision would trigger “intense public debate.” Donald Trump, her Republican rival, will use the FBI’s critical language to further push his arguments that Mrs Clinton is not trustworthy enough to be president.

France

Paris terror inquiry hits at intelligence services

ANNE-SYLVAIN CHASSANY — PARIS

A French parliamentary committee has called for an overhaul of the country’s intelligence services after an inquiry into last year’s terror attacks highlighted patchy surveillance of known suspects and tragic miscues that allowed the plots to happen.

High on the list of MPs’ proposals was the creation of an anti-terror agency that would fall under the supervision of the French president or the prime minister to better co-ordinate the multiple units spread across ministries.

MPs also urged the revival of a network of field agents, calling its unwinding in a previous reform “a catastrophe” that had prevented authorities from collecting “weak signals” from homegrown terror operatives.

“A war is being waged against us,” Georges Fenech, centre-right MP and committee chairman, said yesterday. “Today, our soldiers are being sent to war with soles of lead. Our intelligence services have failed.”

The French MPs concluded it was difficult to anticipate the specific attack on the Bataclan, the Paris concert hall where 90 people died in November, despite a threat against it formulated by a known jihadi in 2009.

But the three terrorists who activated their suicide vests in the hall were known to intelligence services and slipped through the cracks of surveillance, they noted.

One, French-born Samy Amimour, had managed to travel to Syria while under judicial supervision. Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the ring leader of the attacks, could also have been arrested in Athens months before, they said.

The 1,000-page report — to be released on July 12 — offers a damning assessment of a 2008 reform of France’s counter-terrorist services under former president Nicolas Sarkozy. The overhaul was designed to deepen co-operation among intelligence units by merging some of them. Instead, it prompted France to diminish a network of field officers built up over half a century.

Too much emphasis has been placed on high-tech tracking of “strong signals” from the top ranks of terror groups, such as al-Qaeda, at the expense of investigating the whereabouts of low-level, French-born terrorists, the MPs said.

Intelligence services in neighbouring

Belgium, where many of the attackers were based, came in for particular criticism. They were responsible for at least two major failings, the MPs said.

In January 2015, Greek services alerted Belgium that Abaaoud was in Athens. But the Belgian services did not inform their Greek counterparts they were planning to raid Abaaoud’s cell in Belgium until half an hour beforehand. Tipped off, the jihadi vanished before police swooped.

Another mistake occurred the morning after the Bataclan killings, when French gendarmes stationed in Cambrai near the Belgian border stopped a car at 9:10am that was bringing Salah Abdeslam, one of the perpetrators of the Paris attacks, back to Brussels.

Officers were suspicious and held the car. Abdeslam’s name had popped up in a Belgian-filled registry for common crimes. Attached to his name was a recommendation to question him but remain discreet and not detain him. More than an hour after officers let the car go, Belgian authorities told them Abdeslam should have been in a differ-

‘Our soldiers are being sent to war with soles of lead. Our intelligence services have failed’

ent registry for radicalised persons.

“There is a problem of Belgian legislation and of the quality of the Belgian intelligence services,” Sébastien Pietrasanta, the socialist MP who wrote the report, said.

The French MPs also noted that having three distinct special intervention squads — one for Paris, two at the national level — had created problems on the ground. “Why not have just one unit?” Mr Fenech wondered.

The report also criticised miscommunication between France’s prison administration and police. This allowed Amedy Coulibaly, then a petty criminal, to be released without surveillance despite having become radicalised in prison. Coulibaly later killed a police officer and four Jewish hostages in January 2015.

The MPs voiced doubts over the deployment of 10,000 soldiers throughout France as part of the security response to the terror attacks. They suggested replacing them with 2,000 police officers trained to operate in an urban environment and tackle hostage crises.

When lightly armed local police officers arrived at the Bataclan on the night of November 13 to heavy automatic gunfire, they pleaded with eight soldiers patrolling nearby for help.

The soldiers asked superiors for permission. But the order never came. The police officers then asked if they could borrow their guns. The answer was another No because the soldiers were instructed never to part with weapons.



Tributes placed at the Bataclan in Paris where 90 people were killed

Defence industry

German arms exports rise despite pledge to curb sales

GUY CHAZAN — BERLIN

Germany has recorded a big increase in arms exports this year, an embarrassing development for the Social Democrats, the left-of-centre coalition partner whose leader had vowed to curb sales of German weapons abroad.

The value of licences granted for arms exports stood at €4bn in the first half of this year, up from €3.46bn in the same period last year. That reinforces a trend first seen last year, when arms exports nearly doubled to €7.86bn from €3.95bn in 2014.

The figures have proved particularly awkward for Sigmar Gabriel, the economics minister and Social Democrat leader, who is responsible for handing out export licences and who entered the government in 2013 pledging a more restrictive policy on arms exports.

The defence industry’s export success comes at a time when Germany has increased its military budget, boosted troop numbers and expanded its contribution to Nato, in the face of global security challenges such as Islamist terrorism and a resurgent Russia.

But many Germans, mindful of their country’s Nazi past, oppose military deployments abroad and are equally resistant to exports of German weaponry, particularly to unstable parts of the world such as the Middle East.

Opposition politicians have been especially critical of German arms sales to countries with questionable human rights records, such as Saudi Arabia.

Dietmar Bartsch, a leader of the leftwing Die Linke party, said Mr Gabriel should ban all weapons exports

to crisis regions. “It’s scandalous that Germany is sending weapons to the whole world and then is surprised that all these [refugees] come here,” he said.

Agnieszka Brugger, the Greens’ spokesperson on security issues, said the sales figures showed Mr Gabriel had “finally lost the last vestige of credibility” and accused the government of a “fatal change of course at the expense of security and human rights”.

Mr Gabriel blamed his predecessors for the surge in defence sales. In an interview with the Süddeutsche Zeitung, he said many of the biggest arms deals were approved before his Social Democrats entered the coalition in 2013. He cited a €1.6bn contract to sell Leopard 2 battle tanks to Qatar, “which I unfortunately can’t undo”.

The deal, which received the government’s green light in 2013, was sharply criticised within Germany because of Qatar’s bombing of Yemen and its alleged support for Islamist groups in the Middle East. Mr Gabriel also noted that some of the most valuable contracts contributing to last year’s total involved arms sales to allies, such as the UK, which acquired four German tanker aircraft in a deal worth €1.1bn.

Otfried Nassauer, an arms control expert and head of the Berlin Institute for Transatlantic Security, said Mr Gabriel’s problem was that he was under pressure from his coalition partner, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s CDU, which “wants to see even more arms exports”.

He pointed to an interview by Wolfgang Schäuble, Germany’s finance minister, who called for a loosening of Germany’s arms export regime.

Transparency

Iranian state-linked bank chiefs quit in salary scandal

NAJMEH BOZORGMEHR — TEHRAN

A scandal over the high salaries of directors at Iranian state-affiliated companies has triggered resignations at the Islamic republic’s four main banks and its sovereign wealth fund.

The dispute, which has threatened to undermine the government’s anti-corruption drive, erupted after media outlets close to hardline members of the Iranian regime published the payslips of top executives, revealing that some were earning more than 1,000 times the minimum wage of \$400 a month.

Since then, the managing directors of Mellat, Saderat, Refah and Mehr, which are all state-linked banks, have resigned, as well as Saffar Hosseini, head of the National Development Fund, the country’s sovereign wealth fund, and its entire board.

The scandal is seen by some as an attempt to undermine Hassan Rouhani, the centrist president, who is seeking re-election next year.

Mr Rouhani intervened in the controversy on Monday by praising the public’s “sensitivity to unusual salaries”, while promising urgently to draft an

amendment to the public sector salary system. He also vowed to “fight corruption and rent-seeking in the administrative and economic system until it is uprooted”.

The scandal erupted at a challenging time for Mr Rouhani. Under his watch, inflation has dropped to 9.7 per cent — the lowest in two decades — from around 40 per cent three years ago. He is also seeking to lure foreign investment following the lifting of sanctions after Iran reached its historic nuclear agreement with world powers.

But many Iranians have a bleak outlook on the economy, as they worry about stagnating growth and high unemployment — youth joblessness is put at 26 per cent. People took to social media to vent their anger over the salaries scandal, with Iranians questioning social justice in the Islamic republic.

“This fire will expand and will go deeper in social layers,” said Saeed Laylaz, an economic analyst. “It does not mean that this scandal can lead to a social unrest, but we will see its impacts in other places like people’s refusal to co-operate with the government to help cut subsidies [on energy].”

The leaked salary documents revealed that Mr Hosseini, head of the sovereign wealth fund, earned 570m rials (\$18,512) a month and received 3bn rials in loans with an interest rate of 4 per cent, compared with the 30 per cent ordinary Iranians would typically pay. They also showed that Ali Rastegar,

‘The government has suddenly found itself in the middle of a dangerous war between rich and poor’

managing director of Bank Mellat, earned about \$12,000 per month and an annual bonus of \$454,000.

“When it is very difficult for an ordinary person to get a loan of 100m rials, it is maddening to hear the head of the same bank has [such] a monthly income,” said another economic analyst. “The government of Rouhani has suddenly found itself in the middle of a dangerous war between the rich and the poor and will not find it easy to get out.”

Analysts say the salary dispute could weaken Mr Rouhani’s anti-corruption

campaign against regime hardliners who have allegedly exploited their affiliations to military and religious bodies for personal benefit.

But it may also help him push for greater transparency at organisations that are not accountable to him.

Mr Rouhani has repeatedly said corruption is one of the main reasons Iran has struggled to attract significant foreign investment since the sanctions were lifted, which was an expected and much needed dividend of the nuclear accord.

Any disclosure of the income of military figures in the elite Revolutionary Guards, as well as the revenues of its economic empire and religious foundations, which together are estimated to run up to half of Iran’s economy, are considered a taboo.

These organisations, which pay little tax, are accountable only to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s supreme leader and ultimate decision maker.

Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, head of public relations of the Guards, said that its payments, which he insisted were fair, had to remain confidential for security reasons.

INTERNATIONAL

Maritime claims

Warplane clash raises Tokyo-Beijing tension

Japan denies targeting Chinese aircraft during East China Sea encounter

CHARLES CLOVER — BEIJING

A near dogfight between Japan and China — according to the latter, involving the rare use of fire-control radar to target its warplanes — has further escalated tensions between the two powers amid fears that clashes are growing more provocative.

China and Japan have spent much of the past two years embroiled in an increasingly heated dispute over territorial claims in the East China Sea, with both sides launching manoeuvres in support of this.

But the latest clash on June 17 threatened to turn dangerous, according to a

statement by China's defence ministry on Monday, when Japanese warplanes used fire-control radar to “light up” Chinese counterparts and released infrared flares during evasive manoeuvres. Japan's deputy chief of cabinet yesterday denied China's claims.

Both sides agree a pair of Chinese SU-30 fighter-bombers encountered two Japanese F-15 fighters somewhere over the East China Sea, where China and Japan dispute ownership of islands known in Japan as the Senkaku and China as the Diaoyu. The nations also claim overlapping Air Defence Identification Zones, which require foreign aircraft to identify themselves.

Japanese officials say China has increased its military activity in the sea and air, obliging Japan to almost double its scrambling of aircraft to engage Chinese jets over the past three months.

Yanmei Xie, an analyst with the non-governmental organisation International Crisis Group in Beijing, said the Chinese ministry of defence's comments on Monday had probably been in

‘This kind of thing can degenerate, and it is hard to verify what happened’

Yanmei Xie, analyst

response to a story last week in the Japanese press, which quoted an unnamed retired officer in Japan's air force as saying Chinese aircraft had made threatening manoeuvres during the incident. Tokyo denied the press reports.

“The Japanese government put this back in a box,” said Ms Xie, “but the Chinese side suspects that Japan uses these

unnamed officials to leak information to smear China, while not making an official accusation. So that may explain why China still felt they had to respond.

“This kind of thing can degenerate into a ‘he said, she said’ situation, and it is very hard to verify what happened.”

Ian Storey, of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, said a radar lock by either side would be a “very dangerous move” because the targeted plane would have seconds to decide whether it was under attack and how to respond. That raises the possibility of accidental fire, something military analysts see as a possible result of the growing spats.

Japanese officials did not deny the claims that its aircraft had fired infrared decoy flares during the incident, a move that would be consistent with believing they were under attack.

The last time fire-control radar was allegedly engaged in the East China Sea was in January 2013, when Japan's defence ministry said a Chinese frigate had locked a weapons radar on to a Japanese destroyer, calling the incident “a unilateral, provocative act and extremely regrettable”. China denied the claim following an internal investigation.

Maritime tensions in the western Pacific are edging higher a week ahead of an international ruling on a dispute between China and the Philippines over sovereignty claims in the South China Sea.

An arbitration court in The Hague is expected by analysts to rule in favour of the Philippines and invalidate many, if not all, of Chinese claims in the South China Sea. China has already rejected the arbitration proceedings.

Appointments

Modi draws diverse castes and regions into India's government

AMY KAZMIN — NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi inducted 19 ministers into India's government yesterday in an attempt to appeal to constituencies beyond his party's traditional upper-caste Hindu base and with an eye on forthcoming state elections.

The prime minister's choices — from diverse states and many from the lower rungs of the caste ladder — reflect complex calculations ahead of legislative assembly polls in the bellwether state of Uttar Pradesh and other state elections due next year.

Critics say the appointments make a mockery of Mr Modi's campaign slogan “minimum government, maximum governance” and his promise of “government with a difference”. Five low-profile ministers resigned yesterday but the tally has still risen to 78.

“This looks like any old Indian government with the same old arithmetical calculations of caste and region driving the combination of the government, rather than any semblance of wanting to be able to deliver,” said Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor of The Wire, a digital news agency.

“It's the age-old reliance on the political machine, rather than governance, on winning elections.”

Among the appointees are five Dalits, once considered “untouchable”, two with tribal backgrounds and a clutch from what are known as “other backward castes”.

The appointments are widely seen as early preparations for 2019 national elections, in which Mr Modi has said he will seek a renewal of his mandate.

“This is highly political, highly election-focused,” said Sanjay Pugalia, editorial director of The Quint, a digital news organisation. “There is no objective in gathering these people other than to attract votes from certain audiences or constituencies in upcoming assembly elections, leading up to parliamentary elections.”

Government officials denied that ministers had been chosen based on political considerations, saying they had been rigorously screened for their ability to deliver effective governance. “The expansion comes after an exhaustive vetting and selection process to find the best talent,” one said. “People were assessed on the value they would bring to the union council of ministers.”

Appointees include PP Chaudhary, a constitutional lawyer; Subhash Ram Rao Bhamre, a physician specialising in cancer; and MJ Akbar, a journalist once closely connected with the opposition Congress party. Four have been ministers in state government before.

India is set for a period of intense electoral politics in the months leading up to 2017. Next year governments are due to be elected in seven states including Punjab, Mr Modi's home state of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, the largest with a population of 200m.

Mr Modi's Bharatiya Janata party is determined to win control of Uttar Pradesh, which has been ruled by the regional Samajwadi party since its most recent election in 2012.

The northern state has a rich haul of 80 seats in India's 545-seat parliament, which means it is considered key to maintaining political control in New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh is also considered crucial to the fortunes of the battered Congress party, led by Italian-born Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul.

Election

Australia prime minister rejects calls to step down

JAMIE SMYTH — SYDNEY

Malcolm Turnbull has rejected calls for his resignation over his government's poor performance in Australia's election, as one of his predecessors as prime minister warned fellow Liberals not to “start slitting their throats”.

The opposition Labor party is running neck and neck with the Liberal-National coalition after Saturday's vote, with both sides needing 76 seats to win a majority in the 150-seat lower house of parliament. As vote-counting resumed yesterday, analysts said the election outcome was expected to be decided in 10 seats where the result remained too close to call.

Mr Turnbull is facing criticism from Labor and within his own party following the poll, which could result in a hung parliament and months of political instability. But John Howard, a former Liberal prime minister, said the party needed to show unity.

“This hasn't been an outcome we wanted but it's not the end of the world and people shouldn't start slitting their throats — certainly not Liberals — and they should remember the character of their party,” said Mr Howard.

At least two senior ministers backed Mr Turnbull publicly yesterday, including Peter Dutton, a leading conservative figure in the Liberal party and immigration minister. He told Sky that he had spoken to many of his party colleagues and that no one was suggesting a change of leader

Mr Turnbull signalled his Liberal-National coalition would reverse some proposed health reforms and listen to public concerns as it sought to tackle disillusion with mainstream politics.

“I want to make it quite clear that as prime minister and leader of the Liberal party, I take full responsibility for our campaign,” said Mr Turnbull.

“I am very satisfied that I have the skills to do my job as prime minister.”

Australia has developed a brutal political culture over the past six years, which has seen five prime ministers deposed through leadership coups or election defeats. Mr Turnbull ousted Tony Abbott as prime minister just nine months ago and there remains simmering discontent on the right wing of the Liberal party towards Mr Turnbull, a former lawyer and Goldman Sachs banker.

Cory Bernardi, a rightwing



Count Postal votes contribute to result's delay

Several days after Saturday's general election in Australia there is still no final result — a delay that is adding to a sense of political crisis for the government of Malcolm Turnbull, the prime minister. There are several reasons for the hold-up.

The first is that the contest is extremely close, with less than half a percentage point separating the Liberal-National coalition and Labor so far. By last night, eight of the 150 seats in the lower house were still considered too close to call. Australia's state

broadcaster ABC calculates that the LNP has so far won 70 seats and Labor 67, with minor parties taking five.

The second is that a higher than usual number of postal and absentee votes in this election — up to 3m in a registered electorate of around 15.5m — has made it more difficult to call a result in constituencies where the race is tight. The Australian Electoral Commission began counting these ballots only yesterday following the introduction of tougher scrutiny of counts. The controls were imposed after a 2013 debacle in

Voters go to the polls in Queensland in front of a Labor poster urging the saving of Medicare from privatisation, described as a 'grotesque lie' by Malcolm Turnbull, below left

Brian Cassey/EPA

which 1,375 Senate votes went missing, prompting a rerun of some polls.

Under Australian law, postal votes remain valid as long as they are received within 13 days of an election.

Most observers believe a result for the lower house will be known later this week. But a complicated optional preferential voting system used for Australian Senate elections means the outcome for the powerful upper house, which can block legislation, may not be known for weeks.

Jamie Smyth



Liberal senator, said on Monday that those involved in the coalition's electoral disaster should “examine their conscience” and “do the right thing”. Peta Credlin, the former chief of staff of Mr Abbott and now a political analyst, told Sky TV that Mr Turnbull had “broken the Liberal party's heart”.

Asked who was to blame for the election result and who would face dismissal, Mr Turnbull said the result was disappointing but he

accepted the verdict of the Australian people.

“Wallowing in blame and recriminations, that's for people who want to look backwards,” he said. “Barnaby [Joyce, the deputy prime minister] and I look forwards. Leaders lead, you know, others can blame. I'm not interested in that.”

Mr Turnbull accused Labor of peddling “a grotesque lie” during the election campaign that the coalition proposed to privatise Medicare, Australia's

publicly funded universal healthcare system. But he said the government would have to address this to rebuild public trust on health issues.

Analysts said this might lead to a reversal of coalition reforms, including a freeze on government payments made to doctors to subsidise patient costs. These reforms were introduced to tackle Australia's budget deficit and any move to scrap them could increase pressure on the government's pledge to balance the budget.

Emerging market. Economic headwinds

Mexico's central bank chief braced for Brexit fallout and US election risks

Carstens says growth can be maintained despite drop in peso and inflation pressures

JUDE WEBBER — MEXICO CITY

Mexico's central bank governor Agustín Carstens expects his country to maintain its 2.4-2.5 per cent growth rate in 2016, in spite of economic headwinds and Brexit-related fallout.

Matching last year's growth of 2.5 per cent will not be easy for a country battling a battered peso and inflationary pressures that last week prompted a surprise half-point rate increase.

The Bank of Mexico has regularly slashed economic forecasts over the past couple of years amid collapsing oil prices, slow-to-deliver structural reforms and what the bank calls an “unfriendly world economy”. Furthermore, Mr Carstens expects “enhanced

volatility” for the rest of 2016 as the US election reaches its peak and the dust settles from Britain's vote to quit the EU. Still, he told the Financial Times: “If subsequent [Brexit] developments are handled in an orderly, constructive fashion — that is an important if — I think it [the impact] should be manageable.”

The central banker, who also chairs the governing body that advises the International Monetary Fund on how to respond to unfolding crises, appears as baffled by Brexit as many in Britain. A firm believer in globalisation, he says “economic collaboration and integration is of the essence” and the full impact of the UK leaving Europe is as yet hard to anticipate.

The Mexican peso has been in the line of fire. As the most liquid emerging market currency, it represents a convenient hedge and briefly touched an all-time low of just under 19.52 to the dollar on the UK referendum result. It rallied on

the rate cut, but has since weakened again and is trading at just above 18.6.

The US elections could pose even bigger risks if Republican Donald Trump, who wants a border wall and an end to US companies relocating to lower-cost

Mexico, wins in November. “We have to be very cold-headed,” Mr Carstens said, noting “real gains of trade” in the bilateral US-Mexican relationship “that should be the leading consideration”.

For now, volatility looks set to

continue — which can curb investors' appetite to put money into Mexico, Mr Carstens said. “What Mexico needs to do is to distinguish itself from other emerging markets and the way of doing it is by having a consistent and congruent macro framework — adequate fiscal and monetary policy to accommodate the shocks we are facing,” he said.

As such, Banxico, the central bank, “took the liberty . . . of reminding” the finance ministry on June 30 of the need to deliver a primary surplus next year when it raised its benchmark interest rate to 4.25 per cent. A surplus would be Mexico's first since 2009.

The finance ministry had already announced 2016 budget cuts of 31.7bn pesos (\$1.7bn), on top of a previously announced 132bn pesos in cuts this year and 175bn in 2017. The central bank, fearing peso weakness would stoke inflation, delivered its second half-point rate rise in four months.

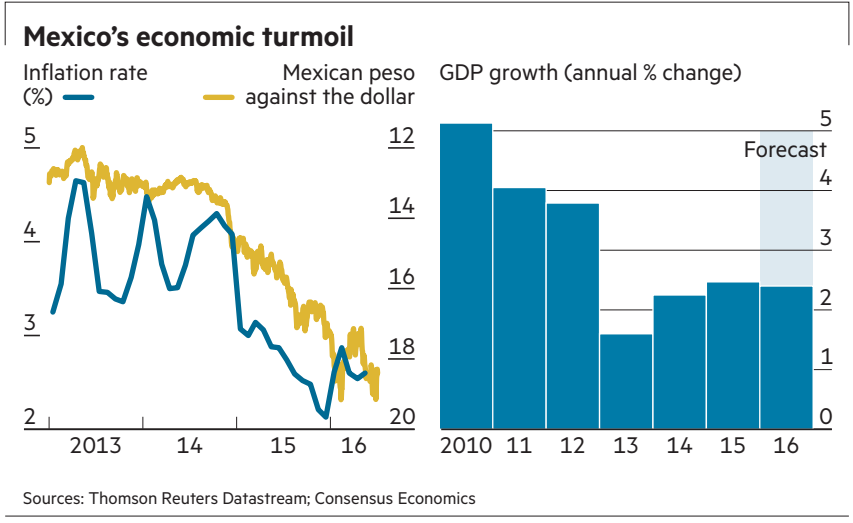
While inflation, which has been at his-

toric lows, is in no danger of spiralling and should end the year “slightly above 3 per cent”, Mr Carstens said Banxico “wanted to be ahead of the curve”.

Though Banxico raised rates in parallel with the US Federal Reserve in December and made clear it wanted to shadow the Fed, it has forked off on to a different path. “The decisions of the Fed will still be very, very important,” Mr Carstens said. “But Brexit illustrates very clearly that there are events where the impact on inflationary expectations is very, very different.”

While the US dollar as a safe haven sparked dollar appreciation and reduced inflationary expectations in the US on Brexit, Mexico's peso depreciation stoked them. While Mexico delivered a rate increase, the Fed's tentative talk of a fresh rate rise now looks on ice.

So will Banxico's latest increase be enough? “We will see,” Mr Carstens said, with a laugh because of the imponderables on the horizon. “I would hope so.”





BY APPOINTMENT TO THE ROYAL DANISH COURT

L I N D B E R G 

FT BIG READ. TACKLING CORRUPTION

The likes of the US, UK and Switzerland are cracking down on kleptocracy, but in extending their reach these global policemen have faced difficulties in establishing ways to return illicit assets to citizens.

By Kara Scannell

Moving money out of purgatory

Aaron Bornstein arrived in Kazakhstan in February 2009 with \$84m and a daunting assignment. His job was to hand out millions of dollars to impoverished families, non-governmental agencies and students who wanted to pursue secondary education. The catch was that he could not have any dealings with the Kazakh government, which was not exactly happy to see him coming.

The money had been frozen in 1999 and the US later alleged that it had been used to pay illegal bribes to top Kazakh officials under Nursultan Nazarbayev, the country’s long-serving president. Now, Mr Bornstein was in Kazakhstan to give the cash back to the citizens who, according to US and Swiss authorities, it had been stolen from.

Mr Bornstein, an international aid worker, and his team set up field offices, screened local hires to weed out anyone with government ties and created a database of qualified recipients. The foundation was named Bota, or “little camel” in Kazakh.

Over the next six years — two longer than projected — Bota distributed all the money Mr Bornstein had arrived with, plus \$31m in interest. In that time, more than 150,000 mothers and children received nutritional assistance and early education programmes. Scholarships were handed out to 841 students.

For the US Department of Justice and its “Kleptocracy Initiative”, which was launched in 2010, Bota was a victory in the global battle against official corruption. But even supporters acknowledge that it will be hard to replicate in other countries where corruption is rampant or when larger sums of money are

‘The fact that the US, Britain, and the Swiss are a magnet for these illicit assets presents an integrity problem’

involved. And it was burdened by the fact that, at heart, the DoJ is a law enforcement agency, not a charity.

“It was over-bureaucratised,” Mr Bornstein recalls. “The Department of Justice is not a development agency. It just wasn’t its priority.”

It is difficult enough for law enforcement agencies to successfully bring international graft cases and seize stolen assets. But it is proving just as difficult to return the money to the citizens without it landing back in the hands of the thieves.

That quandary has become more acute as the US, UK, Switzerland and other countries extend their reach as global policemen tracking stolen assets. The World Bank’s Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative estimates that \$20bn-\$40bn a year is stolen from developing countries. Others say it could be as much as \$1tn.

The US has more than \$1.5bn belonging to Nigeria, Uzbekistan, Thailand and Ukraine tied up in bank accounts in various stages of litigation as part of its Kleptocracy Initiative. Earlier this year the DoJ announced forfeiture actions freezing \$850m it alleges were bribes paid to Uzbek officials to award telecommunications contracts.

Of that, only about \$120m, or one-eighth of the frozen assets, has been returned to the victim countries.

“When you think about the money that’s stolen it’s like an inverted pyramid,” says Shruti Shah, vice-president of programmes and operations at Transparency International USA. “The top is the money that’s stolen. A smaller percentage is frozen and a minuscule percentage is actually returned.

“All government and international institutions should work harder to try to find solutions.”

The UN convention against corruption says money should be returned to the victim country without conditions. But countries including the US, UK and Switzerland have generally insisted on terms to ensure that the money is not stolen again. That often means cash is tied up in litigation.

Funding extravagance

In 2011 the US sought \$80m in assets that it alleged Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, the son of the president of Equatorial Guinea, stole and used to fund an extravagant lifestyle — a Gulfstream jet, a \$30m Malibu mansion, nearly \$2m in Michael Jackson memorabilia and a Ferrari. After three years of



\$84m

Money returned

KAZAKHSTAN

In 1999 bank accounts linked to President Nursultan Nazarbayev’s finance ministry were frozen on suspicions of money laundering. A deal was struck in 2007 by Kazakh officials, Switzerland, the US and the World Bank to set up an independent foundation to return the money to the country. Bota donated all its funds but, without the continued support of the Kazakh government, was subsequently wound down.



\$30m

Money agreed to be returned

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

In 2011 the US sought \$80m in assets it alleges Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, the son of the country’s president, stole and used to fund an extravagant lifestyle. Mr Obiang, known as Teodorin, agreed in 2014 to turn over \$30m in assets. The DoJ plans to return the money to a charity to benefit Equatorial Guinea — but it first needs to sell his former Malibu mansion.



\$1.3bn

Money returned

NIGERIA

Sani Abacha stole as much as \$5bn when he was president of Nigeria from 1993 until his death in 1998, according to Transparency International. So far, \$1.3bn has been repatriated and in March the Swiss announced an agreement to return another \$321m. The US agreed in 2014 to return \$480m but the money is in purgatory awaiting court appeals by entities linked to the Abacha family.

court battles, the DoJ reached a settlement with Mr Obiang agreeing to turn over \$30m in assets.

He managed to keep a crystal-encrusted glove Jackson wore during the “Bad” tour and his Gulfstream jet. The DoJ plans to return the money to a charity to benefit Equatorial Guinea — but it first needs to sell the six-bedroom mansion perched above the Pacific Ocean.

Sani Abacha stole as much as \$5bn when he was president of Nigeria from 1993 until his death in 1998, according to Transparency International. About \$3bn of the funds are tied up in Lichtenstein, Switzerland, the UK, US, France, Luxembourg and the Channel island of Jersey. So far, \$1.3bn has been repatriated and in March the Swiss announced an agreement to return another \$321m.

The US agreed in 2014 to return \$480m but the money is frozen awaiting court appeals by entities linked to the Abacha family.

Muhammadu Buhari, a former military ruler who became Nigeria’s president in 2015 after pledging to clean up graft in the oil-rich country, summarised the difficulties at an anti-corruption conference in London this spring. “Our experience has been that repatriation of corrupt proceeds is very tedious, time-consuming and costly,” he said.

Even with agreements, civil society groups are concerned that the Abacha money will be misused. An earlier tranche that was returned was placed in the central budget with little transparency or accountability to ensure it was spent as intended.

David Ugoror, executive director of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice, a civil society group in Benin City, says: “The issue of asset recovery cannot be discussed in the absence of the victim.” His organisation would like the money to go toward supporting victims of the Boko Haram Islamist group, people harmed by oil exploration and education.

“We’re very concerned about the US government putting its money where its mouth is. Too much policy without action doesn’t mean anything to Nigeria and its people,” says Mr Ugoror. DoJ officials say they will engage civil society groups after the court process is over.

Sometimes it is easier to return the cash — especially when there has been a change in power. Last year the DoJ returned \$1m to South Korea that was allegedly stolen by a previous president, Chun Doo-hwan.

US prosecutors argue that the corruption cases are within their jurisdiction as long as the proceeds pass through America, whether in bank accounts, fancy cars or beachfront property.

“We want to protect the US financial system from becoming a haven for these proceeds,” says a US official. “Where you have a rotten government — those are the kinds of places where organised crime and terrorism take root.”

US officials also point to another benefit — tying up the money for years will deprive dictators from thriving off of it.

Yet some sceptics say the US is part of the problem because it allows for impenetrable shell companies that cor-

rupt dictators can use to mask their purchases. Earlier this year, the US said it would require banks to verify who the true owners are behind accounts.

“The fact that the US, Britain, and the Swiss are a magnet for these illicit assets presents an integrity problem,” says Mr Bornstein. “The new government in power will say my guy may have stolen the money but your system allows that to happen.”

Transferring the cash

Establishing the Bota foundation was drawn out over a decade. In 1999 the Swiss government froze bank accounts linked to Mr Nazarbayev’s finance ministry on suspicion of money laundering. Four years later the US indicted an oil executive and an American businessman in an alleged bribery scheme. Both later pleaded guilty.

Kazakhstan laid claim to the money and after years of negotiations, an agreement was struck in 2007 between Kazakh officials, the Swiss, the US and the World Bank to set up an independent foundation as a way to return the funds to the country. It took another year of talks to hash out the specific terms of the pact.

Mr Nazarbayev was still in power and both the US and Swiss worked to ensure the foundation was completely independent from the Kazakh government.

After competitive bidding, the World Bank chose Irex, an educational non-profit group, and Save the Children to run the programme. Mr Bornstein was hired and dispatched to Almaty, the country’s business capital. The biggest concern when setting up the foundation was to ensure the money would not leak back to the government.

“It was a little bit of a constraint for us,” says Kathy Evans, director of Irex. “Kazakhstan is a socialist country so everything is tied to the government. We’re supposed to be working with

‘It [the Bota scheme] was over-bureaucratised. The DoJ is not a development agency. It just wasn’t a priority’

schools and health clinics and to find any not tied to the government was challenging and not always the best alternative.”

Bota started in two regions and expanded to six. To launch a conditional cash transfer programme, which pays parents about \$15 to have their children vaccinated, among other things, it opened field offices and had mobile enrolment centres that travelled from village to village.

“They used a lot of volunteers instead of government social workers,” says Penny Williams, senior operations officer for the social protection unit at the World Bank. “They found ways to abide by the commitment that it would be independent of the government.”

Bota’s work sometimes ground to a standstill as it waited for all three governments to approve budgets. “We delayed when we had to delay. It wasn’t

a turn off the lights situation but we had to delay payments” to tens of thousands of individuals, says Mr Bornstein.

In one programme Bota said it delivered \$56m to 154,241 beneficiaries under the cash transfer programme and 74,470 children were provided early childhood education. In another it distributed 632 grants worth \$12.5m to NGOs to support the creation or expansion of social services. Of the 841 needs-based scholarships granted to poor and vulnerable youth, more than 90 per cent of the recipients were the first in their family to access higher education, the foundation said.

Bota surpassed its stated goals except one — the agreement called for it to continue “to operate as a functioning foundation”. But without the support of the Kazakh government it was wound down after the money was distributed.

“The government was quite co-operative with us but once the time period was over it wanted to be done with it. It didn’t want people asking questions,” says Ms Evans of Irex.

The project helped many poor families, but its closure has left a void.

“Nobody is working on child welfare issues on a comprehensive basis,” says Janyl Mukashova, a Kazakh who was director of Bota’s social services programme. “It’s a pity.”

Applying the model

As the US steps up its efforts to rein in kleptocrats many challenges remain. In the mobile phone bribery case, Uzbekistan has argued the \$850m should be returned unconditionally since it arrested individuals in connection with the bribery scheme. If the US prevails it will need to find a way to

return the money while dealing with the same officials. There have been some discussions about following the Bota model, but the Uzbek case is of a bigger magnitude.

“Whether a Bota foundation arrangement is remotely feasible in a country as repressive and corrupt as Uzbekistan is truly a serious question that everyone is asking and scratching their heads about,” says Ken Hurwitz, head of the Open Society Justice Initiative’s anti-corruption legal work.

Some question whether prosecutors should be in the business of collecting money if they do not have clear pathways to return it. But others say patience is needed.

“For one thing [the DoJ has] only been making a serious effort for a few decades in creating what is in effect a new area of law,” he says. “There is a huge learning curve. We’re not there yet but when there is a critical mass of such cases then there becomes a deterrent effect,” he says.

Speed read

Kazakh model Bota’s work was praised but some question whether it would work in more repressive states

Gloomy view Nigeria’s Muhammadu Buhari has said ‘repatriation of corrupt proceeds is time-consuming and costly’

Deterrent effect A UN convention says money should be returned to the victim country without conditions





FINANCIAL TIMES

‘Without fear and without favour’

WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2016

EU trade deal bows to the power of parliaments

Brussels cedes ratification of pact with Canada to its member states

Even before the UK had voted to leave the EU, the tensions over authority between the member states and the European Commission across a range of issues had steadily been ratcheting up. The latest source of disagreement was the EU’s proposed trade deal with Canada, which was finalised by negotiators in 2014 and requires ratification by both sides to take effect.

This week it became clear that the constituents had won the battle against the centre. On Tuesday the commission backed down from the attempt by Jean-Claude Juncker, its president, to drive the treaty through by rubber-stamping it at an EU level. Instead, each member state will separately ratify it, if necessary by a vote in national parliaments.

Given the toxic atmosphere surrounding trade deals at the moment, that may well consign the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement to a painfully slow process of ratification, if not to oblivion. Even so, the politics surrounding the relationship of the member states with the centre are currently so sensitive that there is little point inflaming them for the sake of a trade deal which in any case has limited impact.

Technically, it is the European Parliament that has the power to block ratification of a trade deal, a power it acquired as a result of the Lisbon treaty on the functioning of the EU, which entered into force in 2009. The member states must also agree to ratify, but do not necessarily have to consult their legislatures. However, greater scrutiny by the European Parliament, plus rising public discontent with the EU in general and trade deals in particular, has made more control by national parliaments politically astute.

The CETA deal itself is a net positive overall: it does deliver some cuts to tariffs on manufactured goods and com-

modities. But it is weak on services integration, the real future for trade between advanced economies; even the two sides accept that the overall impact on economic growth is small. While it is worth having, CETA is certainly not an agreement so valuable it justifies blowing up the EU.

True, putting CETA on hold will further reduce momentum behind the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a much more comprehensive EU trade and regulatory deal being negotiated with the US. But TTIP was deep in trouble in any case. The UK vote to leave the EU will remove one of the strongest voices arguing in favour of new trade deals, so the damage done to the EU’s wider trade strategy is not dramatic.

To its credit, the EU has improved its transparency when it comes to negotiating bilateral and regional trade deals. It has released more negotiating texts and promised to open up the controversial mechanisms of investor-state dispute settlement, which allow companies to sue governments directly, to more public scrutiny. Still, the accumulated suspicion arising from many years of secrecy surrounding trade deals has fuelled criticisms that these moves towards transparency have not been able to assuage.

The UK’s vote to depart the EU should occasion soul-searching in Brussels as well as in London. The popular animus against a centralised and unaccountable Europe does not begin and end in Britain. No one doubts that the EU has competency over much of what goes into trade deals, but that does not mean that the commission should be trying to ram through agreements rather than allowing ratification country by country. The commission’s decision, while it will delay and complicate policymaking in the future, was the right one to make.

Sir, Pilita Clark, in “UK move to set CO2 target faces challenge” (FT.com, June 30), quotes a press release by the Global Warming Policy Foundation alleging that the fifth carbon budget “may be unlawful” as a consequence of the EU referendum result.

There is no foundation to this claim. The UK’s Climate Change Act is a domestic law. It doesn’t depend on EU membership. Carbon budgets are set primarily to keep the UK on the most cost-effective trajectory to meeting its long-term domestic emissions targets. Ironically, the solution that was proposed to this fictional legal problem – a delay in adopting the carbon budget – would constitute a clear breach of UK law. As it happens,

EU ambition is one of many other relevant considerations when budgets are set but there is no suggestion that Brexit would affect this, let alone in a way which would require UK ambition to be lowered.

The EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme is no reason for hesitation either. It is relevant when we set a budget but mainly because of a technicality in how we currently use it to count our emissions. There’s also no concrete reason to suspect we’d stop using the ETS on leaving the EU – it currently applies to Iceland and Norway.

Any considerable changes in the UK’s situation that would elicit a reassessment of the fifth carbon budget (like stopping the use of the ETS to

count emissions, or bringing ambition in line with the Paris Agreement) would be covered by provisions in the Act that allow changes to be made. But this scenario would involve a scaling up of ambition – as well it should – not a decrease.

Given current political uncertainty, the setting of a clear and unambiguous fifth carbon budget is greatly to be welcomed. The Climate Change Act is doing exactly what it should be doing: providing certainty to investors and ensuring the UK will continue to lead in climate action in the years ahead.

Jonathan Church
*Climate & Energy Lawyer,
ClientEarth,
London E8, UK*

Phasing down HFCs set to continue the momentum

Sir, Your editorial “We have saved the planet once, now let’s do it again” (July 4) notes that “decisive action against [chlorofluorocarbons] 30 years ago has already had a substantial impact on the fight against climate change”. Indeed: phasing out CFCs, through consumer boycotts and the Montreal Protocol, avoided as much warming as caused by carbon dioxide today.

In addition to this success being “useful ammunition” in the fight against climate change, the treaty is ready to do still more climate protection by phasing down hydrofluorocarbons , potent climate gases developed as replacement for CFCs (see “Antarctic’s shrinking ozone hole linked to decline in CFC use”, July 2).

Importantly, parties to the protocol are poised to amend the treaty to phase down HFCs, which could avoid 0.5°C warming by 2100, and even more by catalysing efficiency in air conditioners and other appliances when switching from HFCs.

Extraordinary meetings of the Montreal Protocol in Vienna this month will set the stage for agreement at the annual meeting in Rwanda in October. Phasing down HFCs is the largest climate opportunity this year, and critical to continuing the momentum of last year’s Paris Agreement.
Durwood Zaelke
*President,
Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development,
Washington, DC, US*

Japan does not have fiscal space for more stimulus

Sir, One has to be surprised at the short-termism of your editorial cautioning Japan against adopting policies to weaken its currency (“Japan should not resort to currency depreciation”, June 30), since its suggestion that Japan’s best policy response to an appreciating currency would be a strengthening in demand via fiscal policy is almost certain to compound Japan’s already serious public debt sustainability problem.

The sad reality is that Japan does not have the fiscal space to indulge in yet another round of fiscal stimulus. At more than 230 per cent, the country already has by far the highest gross public debt to gross domestic product ratio among the G7 countries. It also



‘Being a trade negotiator wasn’t always a sexy job’

has a large budget deficit that, according to the International Monetary Fund, risks raising that ratio to 300 per cent over the next decade. This is hardly a good idea at a time when the country has a rapidly ageing population that is already putting its household saving rate on a steeply declining path.

Lacking fiscal space and recognising that a more expansionary fiscal policy could have the effect of further strengthening the currency, Japan would seem to have little alternative but to pursue an even more aggressive monetary policy and to fire more forcefully Abenomics’ third arrow of structural reform than it has been doing to date.

As has generally proved to be the case in the US, Europe and Japan, unorthodox monetary policies if pursued sufficiently aggressively can succeed in weakening the currency without direct foreign exchange market intervention.
Desmond Lachman
*American Enterprise Institute,
Washington, DC, US*

Beware of sowing false divisions over Brexit vote

Sir, The FT’s coverage of the referendum debate and its disastrous consequences has been excellent, but you sow false divisions in describing the UK as “fragmented between rich and poor, young and old, north and south” (“The Tories need a leader with a plan for Britain”, editorial July 2). Wealth, age, region and education levels were not absolute determinants of preference for Leave or Remain;

there were many voters on either side in all of these categories. For example, 40 per cent of the higher age group voted for Remain. Roula Khalaf (“Post-result mourning and the millennial vote”, Notebook, June 30) feeds intergenerational antagonism in arguing that “the older generation has voted to strip the young of a cherished European identity”.

Richard Batley
*School of Government and Society,
University of Birmingham, UK*

Both camps are feeling a sense of exclusion

Sir, I really enjoyed Kazuo Ishiguro’s measured and highly personal article “The remains of the UK” (Life & Arts, July 2). Ishiguro refers to the feeling of “ disenfranchisement” experienced by Leave voters. As a psychotherapist, this sense of separateness/exclusion is the strongest emotion I’ve witnessed in my consulting room this past week.

Interestingly, although their politics and priorities may differ widely, what unites Remain and Leave supporters, I believe, is precisely this sense of disenfranchisement. Both camps are feeling hard done by – whether pre- or post-June 23. It’s human nature to project our own issues on to others, whether it’s our lover, our family, our politicians, the media, “the elite”, Europe or all of the above. Few of us pause to reflect how we all played our part – no matter how we voted – to create the unstable situation we’ve now found ourselves in.

Hilda Burke
London W6, UK

Globish will take over and level the playing field

Sir, Nicholas Ostler thinks there is little reason to suppose that the English language will be cherished on the continent in the future (“English is about to lose its continental crown” June 30). Cherished maybe not, but used for sure. English is de facto the common language of millions of Europeans, it is relatively easy to learn and a convenient lingua franca.

The good news about Brexit will be the departure of British people from European institutions: their unfair command of the language gave the UK a competitive edge to push a hidden agenda. After Brexit, Globish will take over and it will be a level playing field for everyone.

Stéphane Magnan
Issy, France

UK’s corporation tax cut should just be the start

Sir, It’s no surprise that the UK chancellor plans to reduce corporation tax to less than 15 per cent. Cutting corporation tax has been a flagship feature of the government’s programme to show the UK is open for business. There is more reason now than ever to shout that message loud and clear. But the headline rate of tax is just that: a headline. While the rate undoubtedly drives some business to our shores, there’s much more to tax policy and how it shapes the economy.

For instance, do we want to revamp our industrial hinterland or catapult the creative sector? Do we want to encourage capital investment or boost employment? Brexit will allow more freedom to use tax to help different people, regions and industries. We need a broad package of policies and their objectives to be crystal clear. Many will question why anyone should get a tax break in these challenging times. The government needs to forecast and communicate the expected benefits.

These policies cannot be developed overnight, nor do they need to be. The intended cut in corporation tax is hopefully the start of a more detailed programme. And while tax is an important lever to lure overseas business, let’s not forget the UK has much going for it as a financial hub, including a pre-eminent legal system, access to funding, accessibility – not to mention that people like living here. Tax should be about reinforcing why the UK will remain a top location to do business.

Kevin Nicholson
*Head of Tax,
PwC,
London WC2, UK*

Think of the effect on poor countries, Mr Osborne

Sir, If the UK government presses ahead with further cuts to corporation tax it risks undermining its own efforts to reform the global tax system. The UK corporate tax rate was 28 per cent in 2009 but could now fall below 15 per cent. This is part of a wider trend that has seen corporate tax rates fall across the world. The implications are far-reaching, but it is the world’s poorest countries that stand to lose the most from this downward spiral because they are more reliant on corporate tax revenue than is the case in the UK.

Developing countries, estimated to lose \$200bn a year to corporate tax avoidance, are pressured by cuts in the UK and elsewhere into offering ever-lower tax rates. Healthcare, schools and other key public services are left starved of resources as they are deprived of revenue, and it is women and children who are worst affected. While some may make the theoretical case against corporation tax, the reality is that if we fail to tax corporations, the value created often ends up out of reach of national revenue authorities – particularly those in poor countries. Tax havens are a particularly popular place to park corporate profits.

George Osborne should rethink his corporate tax cut. As IMF managing director Christine Lagarde says, “the problem with a race to the bottom is that everyone ends up at the bottom”.

Charlie Matthews
*Advocacy Adviser,
ActionAid UK*

Britain should have no truck with xenophobia

The post-Brexit upsurge in hate crime must be curbed

Four years ago, when Britain hosted the Olympic Games, the nation did so in the spirit of a multicultural society, celebrating the diversity of its many parts. The public embraced the success of foreign-born UK athletes such as Mo Farah every bit as much as they did those of native stock.

That generous spirit seems to have been one of the biggest casualties of the EU referendum campaign. In the week since the nation voted to leave the EU on June 23, True Vision, the online police website, has recorded 331 incidents of hate crime, a 500 per cent increase on the average. On social media there has been an ugly spike in chauvinism. Foreign-born schoolchildren have been abused in the street, and buildings associated with minorities defaced.

These outpourings may represent the views of only a tiny minority in a country of 65m. But before Britons take refuge in complacency, it is also worth noting that the data show they represent the acceleration of a latent, recent trend. According to Tell Mama, a website that tracks Islamophobia, there was a 370 per cent increase in anti-Muslim attacks last year. Anti-Semitic attacks also rose to near record levels.

There is a danger that, left unchecked, this trend will erode hard-won gains made over decades towards a more open and tolerant society to which ethnic minorities and foreigners have been able to contribute at every level. Some may welcome the idea of Britain reverting to what the author Christopher Isherwood called a “right little, tight little island”. But it will be less appealing for outsiders to visit or for foreign capital to invest in, and will have less stature on the global stage.

The mood is tangibly uglier since the Brexit vote, underlining the risks that mainstream politicians from the leave campaign took by focusing on immi-

gration. The identity politics in which they engaged at times blurred the distinction between their positions and those of the extremes. The effect has been to give license to views that were previously rightly beyond the pale – a dangerous development at a moment when sections of the population feel dispossessed by economic change.

Most people who voted to leave were not motivated by xenophobia. But it does appear that many racists have been emboldened by Brexit. Nor was the referendum debate the only occasion on which identity issues have disfigured mainstream politics. London’s recent mayoral elections, for instance, saw the Tory party play on public fears by trying to draw links between the Muslim Labour candidate and Islamist extremism.

The outgoing prime minister, David Cameron, is right to allocate additional funds to the police to crack down on the upsurge in hate crime. In itself, however, that is not enough. Those politicians who played with fire have a responsibility now to douse the flames. The anger stirred up by their campaign has unsettled ethnic minority communities, and foreigners working in the country.

To dispel the doubts they now harbour about their future status, EU citizens already resident in the UK should be given every assurance that whatever happens in Britain’s exit discussions they will be able to remain. Threatening instead to make them bargaining chips in future negotiations, as one leading contender for prime minister, Theresa May, has done, is wrong in principle and only invites retaliatory action against expatriate Britons.

Immigration is a fact of life. A debate around its limits is necessary. But it needs to be managed carefully, in a way that is fair to all concerned and does not inflame nationalist sentiment.

The first rule of Brexiquette: do not mention the B-word

Notebook

by Lisa Pollack



Caffeine, conference calls, overcrowded trains, genuine enthusiasm – there’s only so much of each that I can handle in a day. And to this list I add the fog of Brexit, along with its political, economic and existential fallout. Whether you voted Leave or Remain in the referendum, or did not have a vote at all, there is a limit to how much discussion of the topic a person can take in 24 hours. If we’re going to get through this we will need to converge on some form of Brexit etiquette. “Brexiquette,” if you must.

For starters, if you want to talk about the referendum – and how it is going to affect your life plans, career and cat’s EU passport – please recognise that your conversational partner might have reached their daily quota and is about to burst.

Short of wearing “Do not disturb with Brexit” badges, we’ll have to get better at reading each other. Is this a face that says “Tell me about how Scotland can block Article 50 and therefore Brexit”? It could be. But it’s probably not.

This advice should also be taken to heart by those interacting with Brits abroad. “What do you think is going to happen?” or “How long will it take?” These are questions to which our politicians – who are paid to have answers – have no credible responses right now. I’ve been quizzed along these lines this weekend in Vienna, where I am attending an academic workshop. It brings back memories of being asked as an American abroad

(before I became a Brit) about the Monica Lewinsky scandal and the re-election of President George W Bush. Then, as now, if my answer starts with “Yeah . . .” and my eyes become unfocused, the thing to do if you don’t hate me is to change topics. The weather in Vienna is so much nicer than London! Nudge.

Next, don’t make assumptions about how a person voted. Asking mournfully “How you holding up?” of someone who you wrongly believe voted to remain, is like offering a seat to a woman who turns out not to be pregnant. There is no decent way to backtrack from there. Best to avoid getting into the situation at all.

That said, if you can manage to get there respectfully, it is worth having discussions with people who voted the opposite way to you. Not having these chats diplomatically is part of what has made the referendum and its result so divisive.

If this is too much to bear, use the speed-dating trick of treating it like an exercise. I mean, going to speed-dating is absolutely not about the fact that you are in your thirties and increasingly anxious to find someone who shares your love of National Trust properties and BBC Radio 4. Of course not. It’s that you want to practise making small talk. What a valuable skill in business and in life! Similarly, with those on the opposite side of the Brexit divide to you, here’s a chance to hone the skill of actively listening to someone who disagrees with you. As with telling people to

take their feet off the seats (the sign is *right there*), having these conversations is something we could be a lot better at as a country.

Remember “Sumo”. This stands for “Shut Up, Move On” and it’s claimed as a trademark by Paul McGee, whose book I picked up years ago in the Answers section at a bookshop in London’s Victoria station. I was reminded of it when a petition for a second referendum was widely shared on social media shortly after the result of the referendum came out. I mean, I get it. There is an overwhelming feeling of sadness among those who, like me, voted to remain. All of a sudden, how you view your country has changed. But this petition, a suggestion to undermine democracy, really isn’t helping. Please, shut up.

Instead do something that can change outcomes: join a political party. This isn’t a matter of etiquette per se but this enables you to vote for the next leader of your party of choice and they will influence how Brexit is handled. It will also help you move on.

Understandably it will be too soon for some to Sumo. What has happened is profound. The uncertainty about the future is a constant, nagging worry. Those seeking to reassure can offer sentiments and intentions but not much else. It’s going to be a long haul. All the more reason to encourage better Brexiquette. And, please, someone make those badges.

lisa.pollack@ft.com

Comment

Renzi is right – there is a banking problem

OPINION
Philipp Hildebrand

With Britain’s vote to leave the EU, the bloc has been granted a golden opportunity to prove that what does not kill you makes you stronger. The EU however needs to be clear-sighted about what the lethal threat is. It is not the UK’s vote, but what lies behind it: poor economic performance and inefficient decision-making. That is what the remaining 27 member states should focus their energy on fixing. And they should start where the pain is most acute: Europe’s banks.

Matteo Renzi, the Italian prime minister, might have gone about tackling

this issue the wrong way when he floated the idea of suspending bail-in rules in the wake of Brexit to facilitate a publicly funded bank recapitalisation. On the substance, though, he is absolutely right: Europe has a banking sector problem. Weak bank balance sheets make for weak growth. And the markets agree. Eurozone bank shares have fallen nearly 40 per cent since the start of the year and have been hit as much by the news of Brexit as UK banks.

At the same time, I agree with those who reacted to Mr Renzi’s proposal by saying there is no case to suspend the bail-in rules that are encapsulated in the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive, which came into force at the start of the year, and that doing so would fatally damage the credibility of the brand-new bailout framework.

But as Angela Merkel, German chancellor, has pointed out, the rules as they stand provide for enough flexibility –

for example, in the context of “precautionary recapitalisation”, which does not require bail-in and permits the temporary shoring-up of banks with public money to make up for a capital shortfall revealed by a regulatory stress test, if raising private capital is not feasible. It is a fortunate coincidence that the 2016

The EU should allow governments to take temporary equity stakes in lenders that need a boost

European Banking Authority’s stress test campaign is under way. And it is clear, with most European banks trading far below book value, that raising private capital at this juncture is not a practical option. At the same time, most European banks are perfectly viable,

and so resolution is not the way to go.

The European Commission should therefore allow those governments that wish to do so to take temporary equity stakes in banks that need a capital boost. Importantly, state aid rules apply, so this should not be a free handout. Rather, it should be conditional on banks committing to significant steps to address the structural difficulties they face and diversifying income sources. This would be similar to the US Tarp process in 2008 that ended up returning money to taxpayers. The scheme would ideally include provisions to encourage consolidation. Since they would be intended to be temporary, the equity participations taken by governments under this scheme should be excluded from calculations of government debt for purposes of the EU’s fiscal rules.

Agreeing to this scheme would have a number of significant benefits: it would solve once and for all the deep structural

weaknesses that have plagued eurozone banks since the crisis and which explain in large part why recovery has lagged behind those of other economies. And it would signal to markets and voters alike that European policymakers have grasped the need to finally get to grips with structural impediments to growth. It would also clear the way for further progress in completing the banking union, as core countries will no longer need to worry about being made to pay for the bad loans of southern European banks.

Equally important, this solution would have no meaningful downsides: no rules would be broken, no perverse precedent or incentive set and no complicated legal process set in train. It is, in short, a no-brainer.

The writer is vice-chairman of BlackRock and a former chairman of the governing board of the Swiss National Bank

Three truths about the Iraq war and its consequences

WORLD AFFAIRS
David Gardner

After Brexit, Chilcot. Britain, run by people who long presumed to teach the world the finer points of governance, is in danger of becoming a byword for broken politics and gratuitous self-harm. This inquiry into the UK’s involvement in the Iraq war, chaired by Sir John Chilcot, a retired civil servant, has taken seven years and now its report finally appears, 13 years after the US-British invasion, in 12 volumes running to 2.6m words.

It is hard to imagine how much more damage can be done to the tarnished reputations of Tony Blair, former prime minister, and his lieutenants, or whether any inquiry can capture the toxic mix of naivety, vanity and obtuseness that impelled this misadventure when the UK decided to go to war alongside President George W Bush.

Yet whatever Chilcot establishes, there are at least three deeper truths about Iraq – the geopolitical fiasco as well as the destruction of a state and society already brought low by tyranny, wars and sanctions – aside from the fact that the US and the UK started this war of choice with no more forethought than the Brexiters have exhibited.

First, Iraq offered the world a pitiless spectacle of the limits to US power (Britain’s role was, in that sense, a sideshow). Obviously, America possesses military might in unique abundance. What it lacks is the ability to shape the broader Middle East, from Iraq to Afghanistan, or Syria to Libya. Conversely, the US and its allies do seem to possess the ability to help incubate worldwide security menaces. One result of Iraq is Isis, an even more savage iteration of jihadism than its al-Qaeda precursor, as we keep seeing, not just in Raqqa or Mosul, but from Dhaka to Medina, or Istanbul to Brussels; there is also regular carnage in

The US possesses military might in abundance yet lacks the ability to shape the broader Middle East

Baghdad that rarely makes headlines.

It is no defence to keep repeating, as Mr Blair does, that the world is a better place without Saddam Hussein. Scores of little Saddams have taken his place. The casual upending of a millennium-old balance of power between Sunni and Shia triggered a sectarian bloodbath across the region and beyond.

Second, Iraq led to Syria. Sure, the Syrian civil war was detonated by region-wide uprisings against Arab despotism, most of them aided and abetted by the west, leaving dissidents little space except the mosque to regroup – a chemically pure formula for the manufacture of Islamists and jihadis. But the sectarian parameters of Syria were set by Iraq. And western policy of outsourcing support for Syrian rebels to Turkey and Saudi Arabia not only helped create the vacuum into which Isis stepped but has helped pulverise Syria and Iraq, creating a real risk of regional implosion.

The frequent comparison of Iraq to the Suez crisis of 1956, the last hurrah of French and British colonialism, falls short. While Americans and Europeans have no plan to put a brake on the proxy warfare between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran that Iraq set in train, they have managed to make Vladimir Putin’s Russia, a predatory if subprime superpower, look surprisingly good.

Third, the recklessness of Iraq followed by the fecklessness of western policy towards Syria has led to other inescapable if unintended consequences – not least for the UK and EU. It is obvious not only in retrospect that the surge of refugees out of Syria, and the deal struck with Turkey to control it that appeared to offer visa-free travel in Europe to millions of Muslim Turks, were going to pump up the Brexit vote.

In Washington, London and other western capitals, the refrain that intervention in Syria is “too complicated”, especially in light of Iraq, has become a political jingle. It obscures the fact that the west has been intervening, just not successfully. And it becomes self-prophetically truer as the shape-changing contours of the war keep getting worse. If only Messrs Bush and Blair had thought Iraq was too complicated.

david.gardner@ft.com

How Europe should respond to Brexit

ECONOMICS
Martin Wolf

In October 1996, as the launch of the euro came closer, I argued that: “The choice looming for the UK is between being inside the European Monetary Union and being outside... It will become a choice between having a voice within the governing arrangements of Europe and not having one. In time, it will be between being inside the EU and being outside it.”

I concluded, for this reason, that the UK should consider joining. Shortly thereafter I changed my mind, arguing that the UK could not thrive inside it. Subsequent events have confirmed this judgment. But my earlier concern has also been vindicated.

The UK has long been semi-detached and is now well on its way to becoming fully detached. The pending divorce poses a huge challenge for the UK. But it also brings challenges for the EU. To thrive, perhaps even to survive, it must change. The UK’s departure is a threat but also perhaps an opportunity.

This is not to argue that divorce was predestined. Ending up where we are now was the result of a series of accidents including, not least, the amazing incompetence of David Cameron, the outgoing prime minister. If just 2 per cent of those who voted Leave had voted Remain, the latter would have won. If Mr Cameron had not won the last general election, the referendum would not have happened. If David Miliband had been leader of the opposition Labour party, Mr Cameron would probably not have won the election. One could go on. Nevertheless, the UK’s disenchantment with the EU project and lack of belief in

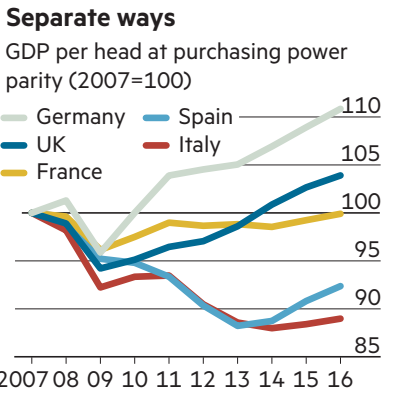
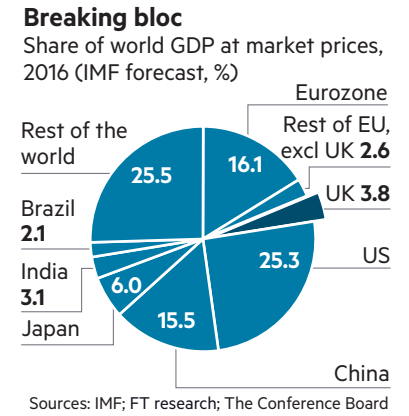
its existential purpose always made this sad outcome possible.

Brexit might still not happen. The referendum is, after all, purely advisory. It does not bind parliament and, what is more, parliament cannot bind its successors. Furthermore, the referendum result merely specified that the UK should leave the EU. It did not indicate what Leave meant. As choices become clearer to the public, the latter might be subject to a severe fit of buyers’ remorse. Another referendum is not inconceivable but it is very unlikely. The political costs of ignoring, or seeking to overturn, the result exceed those of acceptance. Even if that did not have to be so, all the candidates to replace Mr Cameron believe it. The UK is leaving. That has to be the assumption of its EU partners, particularly if free movement of people remains an inviolable principle. So how should the rest of the bloc respond?

The UK’s almost certain departure is a threat to the EU on two dimensions.

First, the UK is a neighbour, a market, a financial centre, a security partner and a link to the wider world. It is in the EU’s interest to achieve a mutually satisfactory relationship, however infuriating the UK must be. This argues for the pragmatic position taken by Alain Juppé, frontrunner in the race for the French centre-right presidential nomination. He even suggests that restrictions on free movement of people should be negotiable. If so, that would surely have obviated Brexit.

Second, Brexit is a precedent. The first country to leave the EU is, inevitably, an example to those that wish to follow suit and a warning to those who oppose it. It is natural for the latter to seek to undermine the appeal of the former by punishing the UK. I sympathise. The question they must ask themselves, however, is whether the best way to preserve the EU is to make it a prison, rather than a desirable place of refuge.



This is not to argue for indulgence. But it is to argue against vindictiveness.

Yes, it is understandable that the EU establishment wishes to reduce the appeal of populists. But the best way to do so must be to give Europeans the security and prosperity they seek. One of the reasons so many in the UK wanted to leave is that the EU is no longer seen to deliver on these promises. That has not just been a difficulty in the UK. It is a difficulty throughout the bloc.

Thus the core challenge for the EU is to make it work – and be seen to work – for the benefit of the great majority of its citizens. As Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, argues: “The

Is the best way to preserve the union to make it a prison rather than a desirable place of refuge?

spectre of a break-up is haunting Europe and a vision of a federation doesn’t seem to me to be the best answer to it.” This is sensible. The failure of the EU lies not in its political structures but in its policies. It must secure legitimacy via practical achievements rather than further erosion of national autonomy.

The paramount example of recent failure lies inside the eurozone. That has nothing to do with the UK. The sad truth is that, far from launching a period of prosperity, the euro has delivered a lengthy period of stagnation and massive divergences in living standards. Between the first quarters of 2008 and 2016, aggregate eurozone real gross domestic product rose by a mere 0.5 per cent, while real aggregate demand fell by 2.4 per cent. This is grim enough. Even worse, between 2007 and 2016, real GDP per head is forecast to rise 11 per cent in Germany, stagnate in France and fall by 8 per cent and 11 per cent in Spain and Italy respectively.

These dire outcomes are no accident. They are the product of a misdiagnosis of the crisis as mainly fiscal, of asymmetrical macroeconomic adjustment, and of obscurantist opposition to fiscal stimulus, even at a time of negative real interest rates on long-term borrowing. Germany has done well out of the euro. Its principal partners have not. This divergence poses a big threat. No effective plan exists to end it. (See charts.)

The EU is unlikely to gain the legitimacy that comes from democratic accountability: it is too big and diverse for that. The best route to legitimacy consists, instead, of managing the practical challenges it confronts. Dealing with migration is an extremely important and difficult practical challenge. But making the eurozone prosperous is indispensable. Brexit is a nuisance. The priority is a practical plan for widely shared economic growth.

martin.wolf@ft.com

Open-ended property funds are accidents waiting to happen

OPINION
Patrick Jenkins

In the days that followed the UK referendum vote for Brexit, there was a mass sigh of relief from policymakers and senior financiers. Did they exhale too soon? Their mutual solace was understandable. The vote did not crash the system. Sterling devalued fast, equity markets plunged and then rebounded. But markets remained orderly.

The banking industry had long warned that regulation introduced to reduce risk following the 2008 financial crisis could actually prove counterproductive. The reactionaries argued that curtailing the ability of banks to hold

large inventories of currencies and securities, and to make markets for customers, would increase volatility and expose investors to damaging losses.

For more than a week after the June 23 vote, that did not happen. It may be starting now, however – and not in the areas of bonds or currencies on which most attention had focused but in a field ungoverned by the post-crisis regulation that bankers have bleated about.

Standard Life’s announcement on Monday that it was freezing withdrawals from its flagship £2.9bn property fund – one of Britain’s biggest such open-ended funds – sent shockwaves through the market yesterday. They intensified when both M&G and Aviva said they had done the same with their £4.4bn and £1.8bn funds.

Share prices in listed commercial property companies and housebuilders tumbled as investors fretted that the bubble that has long been evident across

the UK, particularly in south-east England, may be about to burst.

It all comes to down to confidence. As the Financial Times reported on Friday, at least £650m of large-scale commercial property sales had been shelved within a week of the Brexit vote. Nervousness about the outlook for the sector

If regulators had removed their blinkers, they would have seen the dangerous parallels with banks

is likely to be magnified by the size and structure of the funds that are focused on it, especially the open-ended ones that allow instant withdrawals – at least until withdrawals are barred.

Today, such funds control 5 per cent of the commercial property market, up

from 2 per cent in 2007, when the last crash occurred and commercial property prices fell as much as 45 per cent.

Over recent months, many open-ended funds have built up cash reserves – to a typical 20 or 25 per cent, double the normal level – in an attempt to prepare for an exodus of money. But, as Standard Life and Aviva have shown, once investors have withdrawn the cash buffer, there is nothing more to do: you cannot sell a £100m building quickly.

The fundamental mismatch between a highly illiquid asset class and a promise of instant access to your money means open-ended property funds have always been accidents waiting to happen. There are uncanny echoes of the funding mismatch that killed off the likes of Lehman Brothers and Northern Rock, banks that had relied on short-term finance to back long-term loans and investments.

It is significant that the latest filings

from the Standard Life, M&G and Aviva funds, relating to their finances at the end of May, show all three with far lower cash buffers than rivals – 13 per cent, 7 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

Since 2008, regulators have made headway mitigating risks in banks. If they had removed their blinkers to look beyond the banking sector, they would have seen dangerous parallels elsewhere in financial services, including in this corner of asset management.

There is a strong argument for banning instant-access open-ended fund structures from illiquid asset classes like property. If they are allowed, far more should be done to dictate their liquidity requirements, both upfront, and through monitoring. The property market is already too volatile: irresponsible fund mechanisms only amplify the situation.

patrick.jenkins@ft.com

BUSINESS LIFE

Britain will miss unskilled migrants after Brexit



Sarah O'Connor
On employment

Have you ever noticed how supermarkets run out of fruit salads on sunny days when everyone decides they fancy a picnic? No? That’s because they rarely do.

I never really thought about the mechanics behind this until I interviewed a man who supplied temp workers to a British company that made bagged salads and fruit pots. Demand would fluctuate according to the weather, but British weather is notoriously changeable and fresh products have a short shelf life. So the company would only finalise its order for the number of temps it required for the night shift at 4pm on the day. Workers on standby would receive text messages: “you’re on for tonight” or “you’re off”.

Most of this hyper-flexible workforce had come to the UK from Europe. “We wouldn’t eat without eastern Europeans,” the man from the temp agency said confidently.

Was he right? Britain might be about to find out. Now that UK citizens have voted narrowly to leave the EU, the country’s immigration policy is in flux. Some want the UK to maintain the free movement of labour in exchange for access to the EU’s single market. But the leading candidates to replace David Cameron as prime minister have said any deal to leave the EU must involve control over future migration, since this was the promise made to Leave voters before the referendum.

There is talk of the country introducing an Australian-style points system that would admit high-skilled migrants such as engineers but stop

low-paid migrants like salad-baggers.

If that is the policy on the table, it is time for politicians, employers and the public to think seriously about how it would affect the economy.

EU nationals account for 31 per cent of the workers in food manufacturing, 21 per cent of those in hotels and other accommodation, 16 per cent of those in agriculture and 15 per cent of those in warehouses. While current migrants probably won’t be sent home, people who want to limit low-paid migration say this would result in more jobs for British people in future.

Yet there are already plenty of jobs for British people. The proportion of UK nationals in work is at a near-record 74.4 per cent, higher than in 2004 when the “A8” eastern European countries joined the EU (which is when migration to the UK began to increase sharply). Torsten Bell, director of the Resolution Foundation think-tank, says the only significant pocket of unemployment left in Britain is among disabled people. “And we’re not about to send them out into the fields”.

There is also something about the nature of these jobs that makes them tough for UK nationals to do. These sectors usually require extreme flexibility from staff: the salad-baggers who wait for a text message to say they have work that night; the cleaners who cobble together piecemeal shifts at dusk and dawn; the fruit pickers living in caravans on farms.

When people say “migrants are doing the jobs that Brits are too lazy to do”, they are missing the point. These jobs may be palatable if you are a single

“Something about the nature of jobs in hotels, farms and warehouses makes them tough for UK nationals

person who has come to the UK to earn money as a stepping stone to a better future. But if you live here permanently, have children here, claim benefits here, they are not jobs on which you can easily build a life.

Farmers say one reason they cannot attract UK workers is the unwieldy benefit system: it does not make sense to do short-term, low-paid temp work that will wreak havoc with your benefit payments for weeks afterwards.

So employers deprived of access to flexible EU workers would face a choice. They could automate some work, but that would be tricky in sectors such as cleaning. They could stop expanding because they think they could not staff a new meat factory, say, or a new fruit farm. Or they could redesign the jobs to attract UK workers: more stable, less precarious, better paid.

Some migrant workers have been pushing for these things already. The UK as a nation could have used regulation to help them. But until now, we seem to have accepted these jobs as they are in exchange for the cheap, convenient goods and services that depend on them.

Low-paid migrants are visible, but many of the benefits they bring are invisible: the British strawberries in the shops, that salad on the shelf just when you want it, the office that is dirty when you leave at night but clean on your return. Perhaps we’ll only really know what we’ve got when it’s gone.

sarah.oconnor@ft.com
Twitter: @sarahoconnor_

Dear Lucy

Work problems answered

My colleague ignores my pleas to stop slapping my bald head

One of my work colleagues sometimes slaps the top of my head when he passes behind me (as in the Benny Hill sketches). I am bald. I find this demeaning and have asked him to stop, which he won’t. I have two options. I can complain to my manager but it will go down on my records and I will be seen by the rest of my colleagues as a whinger. I could threaten him or hit him but I might be dismissed. What would you do? **Male worker**

Lucy Kellaway’s answer

I am a bit worried about the culture of your company. You work in an open plan office, so everyone sees what everyone else is up to all day. This man hits your head, you are obviously discomfited, all your colleagues watch — and presumably your manager does, too — and no one says anything.

That’s not a good sign, but even worse is your suspicion that important records are being kept about you, and if you complain about something legitimate it will somehow go down in history as a black mark against your name for ever.

Your office sounds like a nasty place in which no one trusts anyone. In such an environment you have little choice but to take matters into your own hands. By that I do not mean that you wallop him next time he tries anything, tempting though that might be. As you point out, if you hit him it could easily end up hurting you more than it hurts him.

Instead, I suggest you attack him verbally. Wait for him to slap your head when there are a lot of people around, and then take a stand. Say in a loud, calm voice something like: “I’ve already asked you not to slap my head, but you have chosen to take no notice. I find it unpleasant and demeaning, and I am telling you again now, in front of everyone, to stop doing it.” If he says: “Can’t you take a joke?”, say “No. It’s not funny.”

I guarantee you will have the attention of everyone on your floor. They will all gawp. They will discuss it afterwards, and I suspect you will emerge as the hero. If this man is doing this to you, he will also be messing with the heads (metaphorically as well as literally) of other colleagues, and they will thank you for your courage in confronting him. He will doubtless harrumph and swagger and possibly mimic your voice and do everything to make you look foolish, but that will be to cover his embarrassment.

Even though I have the good fortune of not knowing this particular brute, I am confident this will do the trick. But if it doesn’t, and if he continues to hit you on the head every time he walks past, then it is easy: you complain to your manager, to HR, to anyone else you can think of. You will not then be seen as a sneak but as a man who has reached the end of his tether and has quite rightly had enough.

Your advice

Download an app which mimics hair clippers (eg. Real Razor on iOS, Hair Clippers on Android), then sneak up on your tormentor, turn on the virtual clippers and run your phone across his head. Once you and surrounding colleagues have finished laughing at his reaction, threaten to use real clippers if he slaps your head again. Job done!

Anon

Surreptitiously record the next incident on your cell phone or computer, show it to HR and tell them you are considering consulting a lawyer unless they are able to immediately address this culture of obvious physical provocation and discriminatory intimidation.

Male, 30s

I am bald and my teenage children enjoy rubbing my head like Buddha’s belly. That is cute, intimate teasing and accepting it is the honourable thing to do. In your case there is nothing cute about it. You have been assaulted. At a minimum you should tell your employer. Being a whiner would at least be a higher rank than punching bag.

If alerting your employer doesn’t solve this, you should hit back. If you are fired for that and you have told your employer that you have been assaulted regularly, then you might just win a tidy settlement and find a job at a place where people don’t hit you.

Male, 45, managing director

Slapping is assault. Repeated slapping is bullying. This is what I would do, as an ex-paratrooper: next time it happens stand up quickly, this will push your chair back into the person who slapped you.

When you are standing, turn quickly around. Point at the person who slapped you, don’t extend your arm, keep your elbow in. You will now find you have your index finger and the chair forming a barrier between you.

Make eye contact, with your eyes open wide (this makes you look scary — try it in the mirror!) and do not break it. Say loudly: “Stop hitting me! Don’t do it again!” Say no more, just that sentence. If he does not back down, say “Right, I’m off to HR”. If you do that, he will almost certainly run after you and apologise.

Security consultant, 57

This happened to me (years ago). A work colleague would fire elastic bands off the end of his ruler into my lower back. They stung like hell. Finally, after many useless requests, I told him that if he did it again I would hit him. A short time later he fired another — I punched him once as hard as I possibly could. He could not believe I hit him, never fired another elastic band, and we are longstanding friends.

Engineer

Next problem I have worked in investment banking in NY for 12 years, and while I earn a decent income, the prospects for my industry are bleak. My wife, 34, has a BA in history and a masters in teaching. She does not want to work but income from her would be welcome. What are good jobs that pay above minimum wage and are at least mildly enjoyable that she could enter with no work experience? How should she position herself for such a job? **Investment banker, male, 34**

Please send answers and new problems to problems@ft.com. This column appears fortnightly

Entrepreneurs. Shivani Siroya, InVenture

A fintech pioneer starts in Africa

A US start-up is using smartphone data to help millions more Kenyans gain a ‘financial identity’, writes John Aglionby

Many entrepreneurs can point to a person who gave them the idea for starting their business. Shivani Siroya has 4,500 such individuals.

These are the owners of the small and microbusinesses that she interviewed a few years ago in sub-Saharan Africa and India about their spending habits and access to capital.

“I started to realise there was so much there that we were missing,” she says about her time working for a small microfinance company and the UN. “If we could identify the businesses that actually needed a credit product, or specifically business loans, then our capital would be used in a much more efficient way.”

Finding there was no way to help these often poorly educated but careful business people obtain credit, Ms Siroya has created her own start-up, which is at the vanguard of a fintech revolution. It is transforming millions of Kenyans’ lives by using mobile phone technology to assess creditworthiness and issue uncollateralised loans.

InVenture, which is based in Santa Monica, California, but operates in Kenya, uses a mobile phone app to scrape data off a person’s mobile phone to give them a “financial identity”, as Ms Siroya puts it. The data range from mobile money spending patterns and calling and travel routines, to the way contacts are organised: for instance repayment of a loan is more likely by someone whose contacts are listed with both first and second names.

“We picked the smartphone data [as the basis for their financial identity] because we felt that was the closest proxy to someone’s daily life,” says the 32-year-old.

The company then issues uncollateralised loans to those who pass the algorithm’s benchmark. Processing an application takes five minutes. InVenture also forwards positive credit reports to Kenya’s Credit Reference Bureau to help people, many of whom have never been into a bank, secure longer-term loans.

Ms Siroya says it took years to develop InVenture. After deciding in 2008 that “nobody at the UN was really doing anything to solve the credit problem”, Ms Siroya quit the development world to find a private sector solution.

However, she needed a job. Having worked at UBS before joining the UN, she was drawn to banking and joined Citigroup’s M&A department in California. While working on an acquisition she realised that the big problem in that deal, and with her pet project, was a lack of data.

Ms Siroya formed a volunteer army of 35 like-minded people to find the data.

While holding down her banking job, she co-ordinated the gathering of data and testing in Ghana, India and Mexico.



Shivani Siroya: the founder of InVenture wanted to help aspiring small-business owners such as Kenya’s small traders, right, prove that they are creditworthy

Ann Johansson

“One day my boss came to me and said ‘I think you have a better job’ and that’s what made me take that leap into starting my own company.”

Initially the five staff in the company only gathered and then forwarded data to banks. “But then we decided to take our destiny into our own hands. We didn’t want to wait for a bank to tell us whether we were right or wrong.”

It was at that stage that Ms Siroya decided to focus on Kenya, because of its relatively high smartphone penetration, world-leading M-pesa mobile money platform and the fact that it was English speaking.

The app was launched in early 2014, and now some 125,000 Kenyans previously considered uncreditworthy have Tala — the InVenture app’s new name —

When planning a start-up: “Do your research. If you have found a problem you want to solve, go find out as much as you possibly can about solving it, find out who else may be working on it and decide whether you should start [your own] or join [the existing] company.

“If you are going to start something, you need to know you are going to be in this for the long run.”

Biggest mistake: “I wish we’d started doing what we were doing in 2013 rather than waiting until 2014 . . . this was right under our nose, we could have done this earlier.”

What keeps you going: “The experience I had interviewing people and getting to know them — it kind of changes you. It makes you realise you are not just doing this just to do this; you are doing this because you believe what you’re trying to do is solve a problem.”

financial identities. InVenture, now with 50-plus employees, has issued more than \$10m in loans to 100,000 people. The average loan size is about KES10,000 (\$100) with the median about half that. Ms Siroya says the default rate is about 5 per cent.

InVenture’s greatest success has arguably been the way it has disrupted the Kenyan lending system and prompted others to follow. Not only have similar start-ups, such as Branch International, based in San Francisco and Nairobi, emerged but two of Kenya’s biggest banks — KCB and Equity Bank — have launched similar products. In total, more than \$200m in such phone data-assessed uncollateralised loans has been issued since InVenture launched its first app.

Ms Siroya is very hands-on. She rises daily at about 5.30am, fits in some exercise, and reaches the office in time to make contact with Nairobi from the West Coast before its office day ends. “And the cool part is that Kenya and the other markets we may be looking at wake up at 9pm or 10pm here in LA,” she says. “So you actually get to have a full day, take a little break and then start working again in the evening.”

An only child, Ms Siroya says she learnt her self-discipline from her parents who, when she was growing up in the US, woke her at 5.30am to join them for breakfast.

However, while forging a new path for a new company, Ms Siroya is at times happy to adopt a management style that she describes as “collaborative”.

On a recent visit to Nairobi for the Tala rebranding of InVenture’s app, Ms

Siroya left the speechmaking to Amanda Donahue, who heads the east Africa operation. It helped show the audience that Tala was as much a Kenyan brand, with leadership based in the country, as a US one.

“That is how you become a global player, [by] having these localised brands,” she says. “It’s not a good thing if I go to Kenya and then I give a speech and leave and go back to LA. I can promote us as a global platform.”

InVenture is still small. It took off after receiving \$1.2m in seed funding in March 2013 and its last funding round was for \$10m, while it has also recently raised \$3m in debt financing.

Helping its growth is the fact that it gets more bang for each buck than in the traditional loan market. The average repayment period is 30 days, but many borrowers repay within half that, which means the company’s capital can be recycled much more quickly than banks’ loans.

Ms Siroya believes the business has huge potential. Among the several billions of people without access to credit, some 1bn of them have a smartphone. With phones costing as little as \$20 in Kenya, and elsewhere, penetration is set to soar.

Diversification into areas such as insurance is now on the agenda as well as expansion beyond Kenya. “Instant credit is what we started with but we’ve always known that we are going to go beyond that,” she says.

“That’s why I think we’ll be a big company . . . we’re not just thinking about one product, we’re thinking about the entire daily financial life of a customer.”

Tips for founders

In her own words

ARTS

Timely questions, superficial answers

The International Center of Photography in New York inaugurates its new home with a meagre show about privacy and visibility, writes Ariella Budick

After two years of homelessness, the International Center of Photography has finally snuggled into its new Bowery den, and it celebrates the occasion with a bleak, confused exhibition about privacy, voyeurism and pose. Despite its new-found permanence, the ICP, once one of New York’s mightiest institutions, appears to be trying on a youthful new identity as a pop-up museum taking its first sloppy steps. Having shed the stodginess of a midtown office building, it’s now racking up millennial-cool clichés: cracked concrete floors, exposed columns, naked ceilings. In designing the new space, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the juggernaut of corporate architecture, has joined the organisation in the kid zone. I half expected to stumble across a castle made of beer bottles and pizza boxes.

The inaugural show, *Public, Private, Secret*, emulates the design’s spirit of shoddiness. The street-level lobby and basement gallery look cheap; the exhibition is practically bankrupt. The architects have packed in plenty of square footage, but the low-ceilinged galleries still feel cramped. The curators, too, neutralise ambition with meagreness, roving over the world of surveillance and self-representation, and returning with a couple of narrow, superficial points.

The ICP’s new curator in residence, Charlotte Cotton, conceived of *Public, Private, Secret* to address a swarm of timely questions: what we broadcast about ourselves, what we hide, and what others see that we can’t control. This is well-trampled ground. In 2011, the MoMA/PS1 curator Peter Eleey put together *The Talent Show*, a ruminative enquiry into our contradictory hungers

for solitude and recognition. The fine works at PS1 delved brilliantly into the culture of self-presentation. In an arena of escalating state and corporate security, the triangle linking artist, subject and viewer keeps shifting.

Five years later, fashions in technology have changed, but Cotton trots out some of the same artists as Eleey did. Once again, we get Phil Collins’s “Free Fotolab”, an engagingly random slide-show of other people’s old 35-millimetre snapshots. (You would think that if one organisation could revive an old mechanical slide carousel, it would be the ICP, but somehow images kept



slipping out of focus.) Sophie Calle also makes an appearance, as she always does when the poetics of peeping come into play. Here, she’s represented by a lesser work, “The Sleepers”. Calle offered her (empty) bed to friends and strangers, who took turns spending the night while she stood watch and recorded their unconscious vulnerability. The project yielded a lot of pictures of lumpy blankets and tousled hair.

These incursions into what we once called the private domain seem quaint in the age of constant posts and metadata revelations. Since 2009, Natalie Bookchin has been braiding hundreds of online video diaries into “Testament”. Anguished men and women reveal to their un-judgmental webcams intimacies that they might never tell a human being. And Bookchin is there to listen, or at least use what they say as raw material. We learn little about each individual, but hear only a murmuring chorus of pain.

The internet is an endless playground



Main picture: image from Phil Collins’s ‘Free Fotolab’ (2009). Above: Sophie Calle’s ‘The Sleepers’ (1979-80). Above left: the ICP’s new building in New York

Courtesy the artist and Paul a Cooper Gallery; Saul Metrick

for artistically inclined snoops. The rest of us shop for dog food, book trips to Myanmar and research our symptoms, shattering individuality into an evolving collage of curiosities. Artists dip into this information landfill the way Rauschenberg scavenged in junk shops and empty lots. Jon Rafman emerges with “Main-squeeze”, seven minutes of found footage: a loose-bolted washing machine rattling itself into oblivion, interspliced with a sequence of anime porn, a hogtied

man in a Kermit the Frog costume trying to slip his bonds.

This artistry of tapping into the world’s swamp of desires and disgusts should have been the ICP’s real innovation. Instead, it’s where the show comes unstuck. Cotton and a team of curators rake through the dung heaps of Twitter, Snapchat, Vine and Instagram, emerging with a multitudinous mess. Scattered screens display feeds of images culled by algorithm from social media, a kind of cud-chewing that barely rises to the level of art. “Creators”, for instance, offers an automated update on Warhol’s celebrity culture: a “real-time stream of tweets and image posts aims to reveal the dynamics of the popularity and reach of young, media-savvy creatives”.

The text describes a system where the cultural consumer has become a marketing cog, helping the famous circulate pictures they take of themselves being famous. The screen just dishes out tweets about Justin Bieber. Cotton doesn’t marshal this undernourished

overload into an argument; instead, she throws out a lot of disjointed content and leaves it up to the viewer to thresh.

The ICP’s disastrous reopening represents more than just a curator’s poor judgment or misfired ambitions; it exposes a churning institutional crisis. How does a temple of photography adapt to a time when astounding photographs are a Pinterest search away, or a \$5 app unlocks techniques once guarded by professionals? Today’s radically democratised context presents limited options to photographers and curators.

In the past, the ICP has tried various tacks to protect its uniqueness: digital printing on a monumental scale, shows about politically engaged photojournalists, surveys of street photography or staged conceptual experiments. Now it seems to have given up, and gone grubbing about in the visually saturated world at large, substituting quantity for discernment.

Until January 8, icp.org

Tepid evening warmed by Verdi’s score

OPERA

Il trovatore
Royal Opera House, London
★★★★☆

Richard Fairman

Guess the opera. Snow falls in a barren landscape. Butterflies flit here and there. A tank is menacingly never far away. For light relief a down-at-heel circus troupe turns up in a caravan and battered old car, led by a man in angels’ wings who jousts with another in a bear suit.

The images in David Bösch’s new production of *Il trovatore* are picturesque, but it is not always easy to see what they have to do with Verdi’s opera. Most directors struggle with *Il trovatore*, an opera that works through raw emotions rather than dramatic logic. Bösch’s whimsical effort is a feeble answer to the problem.

The mood he sets is very dark, almost everything happening at night, the colour scheme overwhelmingly black and white. We are in some unspecific, present-day war zone, where the ruling power is resorting to indiscriminate violence and the outcasts, in the form of Azucena’s gypsy group, are a ragbag of travelling players. Projections of graffiti and cartoon faces nudge the ideas along. In terms of present-day productions it is



Sturdy: Željko Lučić in ‘Il trovatore’
Clive Barda

hard to call this controversial, but none of it is followed through. As for the acting — well, what did they did spend the rehearsal time doing?

Fortunately, the main four singers are all experienced in their roles. As Count di Luna, Željko Lučić may not be as stirringly powerful as Cappuccilli was, or as elegant as Bruson, but his sturdy timbre and long-breathed phrasing put him in the front rank of Verdi baritones at the moment. Ekaterina Semenchuk makes a suitably formidable and gritty Azucena. There is not much sense of romance going on between Lianna Haroutounian’s not quite beautiful-

sounding Leonora and Francesco Meli’s bright-voiced, intense Manrico. It is good, though, to have Meli’s native Italian accent and style; and another Italian, bass Maurizio Muraro, relates Ferrando’s narrative clearly.

In the same vein Gianandrea Noseda conducts a trim, clear-cut, Italianate performance, which from time to time goes one step further and releases the all-consuming fire that burns in Verdi’s score. For the rest this was a lukewarm evening. A second cast alternates the run of performances.

To July 17, roh.org.uk

OPERA

Siegfried/Götterdämmerung
Royal Festival Hall, London
★★★★★

Hugo Shirley

It’s only in the third part of Wagner’s *Ring*, in the opera that carries his name, that we meet the hero Siegfried. But there and in the sweeping apocalyptic drama of *Götterdämmerung*, these semi-staged performances demonstrated once again who the real heroes of Opera North’s cycle are: Richard Farnes — the company’s outgoing music director — and his terrific orchestra.

That the first two acts of *Siegfried* saw the tension drop was hardly their fault. The orchestra’s role here is closer to accompaniment, plus



there’s the difficulty of casting the title role: as the boisterous young hero, Lars Cleveman was solid but short on vocal heft and ring. In his exchanges with Richard Roberts’s vivid but light-voiced Mime there was for the first time a sense of the orchestra being reined in.

The balance changes, though, in the third act, as power slips away from Wotan (the imposing, smooth-voiced Béla Perencz) and Siegfried heads towards his climactic duel with a newly awakened Brünnhilde, the thrillingly fresh-voiced Kelly Cae Hogan (pictured with Mati Turi as Siegfried). From here the intensity didn’t let up until Farnes brought his baton down at the end of a truly magnificent *Götterdämmerung*.

The conductor’s control and pacing were unerring, his ear for balance impeccable and the playing of the orchestra — the strings soaring, the wind

incisive, the brass rounded and imposing — consummate. And if Peter Mumford’s “concert staging” might not all have worked — the actions for the young Siegfried’s Forging Song were vaguely reminiscent of “Gangnam Style” — it achieved compelling focus in the powerfully acted final instalment.

Mats Almgren was the personification of lugubrious, baleful evil as Hagen, Andrew Foster-Williams outstanding as the nervy Gunther. Mati Turi was impressively burly-voiced and touchingly innocent as Siegfried. But the star was Hogan: an especially moving Brünnhilde, turning the righteous anger of a wronged wife into thrilling heroics in a climactic and tireless Immolation Scene.

As Valhalla collapsed around him, Farnes’s control and musical intelligence remained supreme. His departure might not herald the end of the world for Opera North — his replacement, Aleksandar Marković, takes over in the autumn — but this outstanding *Ring* shows what they’ll be missing.

operanorth.co.uk

FINANCIAL TIMES
Property Listings

WHERE WILL YOU BUY THIS SUMMER?

FT Property Listings is a showcase of the world's finest properties for sale or rent, including many breathtaking homes in the sun. Whether you're looking for a beach house in Koh Samui, waterfront villa on the Côte d'Azur or a mansion in Miami, you'll find an unparalleled choice of properties for idyllic summer living.

Find your perfect property now
at propertylistings.ft.com

Supported by

Lex.

Twitter: @FTLex Email: lex@ft.com

UK current account: shock absorbed

Charles Dickens’ Mr Micawber epitomised the Victorian attitude to thrift: spend sixpence more than your income and the result is misery. Thankfully, no one turns to Dickens for economic advice. An economy is a lattice of interlocking deficits, balanced by financial flows. The alternative is autarkic stagnation, with everyone consuming their own production.

As the UK demonstrates, this applies to countries as well. A deficit on the current account (trade, investment income and so on) is matched by a capital surplus (direct investment, portfolio flows, loans). So long as capital flows freely, no country need fear Mr Micawber’s fate in the debtor’s prison. The UK’s deficit stands at 5 per cent of national income. Investment has flowed in, overseas ownership of factories, bonds and property balancing the outflow of our spending on foreign goods (and low returns on the UK’s investments elsewhere).

So there is no need for Britain to hustle its way to a trade surplus. A good thing, as the UK is lamentably bad at this — usually only managing it by crushing domestic demand, which is the last thing it needs right now.

But note the assumptions hidden behind the neatness of this tale. First, a free-floating currency that can fall to whatever level is needed to entice overseas investors. Also, deep and liquid markets and an array of investable assets with reasonable returns. Inflation must also be contained, steep price rises having caused currency crises in the past.

All these still hold. Unlike the crises of the 1970s, nobody is calling for a defence of the pound against a growing loss of confidence. Returns are weak in the UK but so they are everywhere: from mid-2014 up until last month, the 10-year UK government bond yielded an average 1.8 per cent, compared to 0.5 per cent in Germany.

The weakening pound is doing its job as shock absorber and the Bank of England is right to list Britain’s current account deficit as only a potential source of financial instability. Indeed, with about 60 per cent of UK liabilities denominated in foreign currency, against 90 per cent of assets, the pound’s fall even helps its financial

position. Yesterday a gilt auction proceeded without a hitch. Volatile times are when the City best shows its resilience. Mr Micawber also said: “Something will turn up.” Just don’t bet on it being the pound.

Gulf banks: sheikh-up

In theory, there are plenty of reasons banks should merge: lower head office costs; cheaper funding; greater pricing power over both deposits and loans; and less earnings volatility. Yet in practice, bank mergers often lead to bloated costs, increased regulatory scrutiny and lower returns on equity. National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank will need to get lots right if their all-share merger, announced on Monday, is to work out for investors.

Rule one is not to overpay. In this case state-controlled National Bank of Abu Dhabi will issue 1.254 shares for every share in First Gulf, a fast-growing retail lender. That implies a 5 per cent discount to FGB’s early June share price, according to Citigroup. But, in return, FGB shareholders get 52 per cent of the combined company, which would be the largest Middle Eastern bank by assets (\$175bn). They would also share annual cost savings projected at \$136m (achieved over three years, with up front integration costs of \$163m).

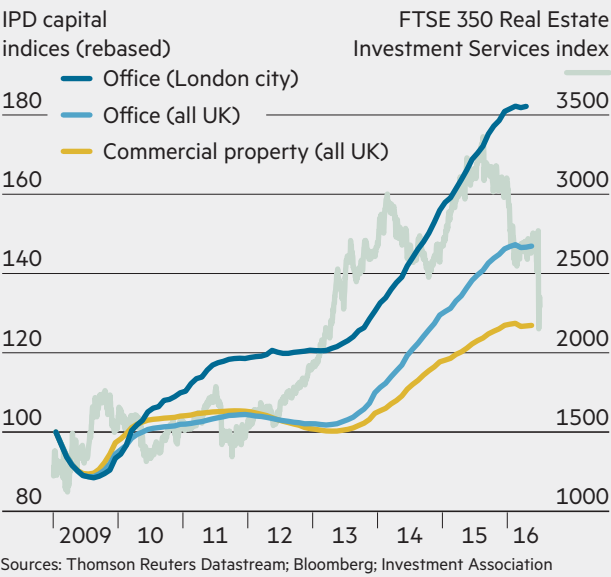
Then there is timing. The last big UAE bank combination, between Emirates Bank International and National Bank of Dubai, happened in 2007, when markets were exuberant. The combined entity’s shares are still down a third, having fallen sharply during Dubai’s financial crisis in 2009. This transaction will take place against a more austere backdrop. Annual gross domestic product growth has halved to just over 2 per cent since 2014, according to the IMF, and government spending is falling.

The UAE is also arguably over-banked: there are more than 50 domestic and foreign banks in a country with fewer than 10m people. But if the new bank retains NBAD’s rock solid double A credit rating, then a cheaper cost of funding combined with modest expenses (Arqam Capital puts the merged bank’s cost-to-income ratio at a very respectable 30 per cent)

Here we go again

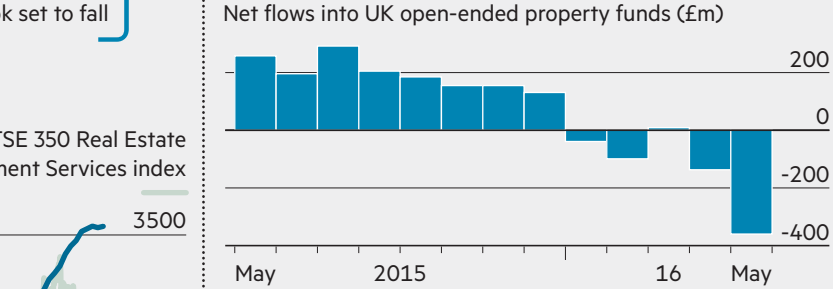
Investment in commercial property had slowed sharply even before the Brexit vote. Actual commercial property prices now look set to fall

UK commercial property prices

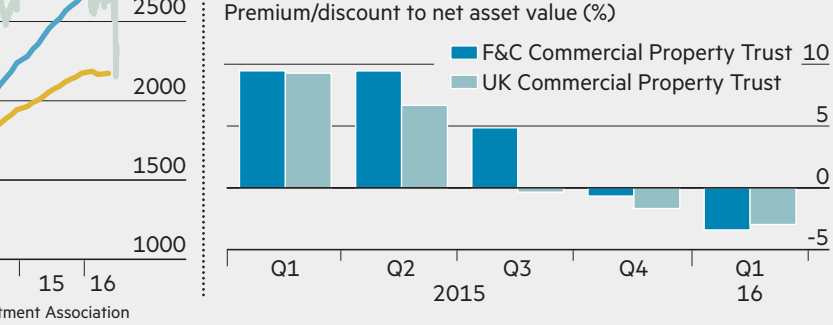


Déjà vu all over again, as Yogi Berra might have said. Standard Life on Monday suspended trading in its flagship UK real estate fund, citing redemption requests following the EU referendum. Aviva and M&G did likewise yesterday. Shares in asset managers fell 3-5 per cent — but this should not be a repeat of 2008. The funds are suspended not because of catastrophe in the commercial property market, but owing to a rush of investors trying to take their money out all at once, running down the funds’ cash buffers. This trend predated the Brexit vote. Investors have been pulling money out of property funds for months, concerned as much about frothy valuations as Brexit.

Open-ended fund flows have been negative for most of this year



Closed-end funds have been trading at a discount since last year



Foreign inflows into UK property had slowed. Discounts to net asset value at real estate investment trusts such as British Land had already widened. In 2008, funds run by Axa, Scottish Widows, Friends Provident and New Star closed to redemptions, locking up billions of pounds. The fear is that commercial property values will again be depressed as managers liquidate assets to pay back investors. After funds were gated in 2008, commercial property prices almost halved. But there are key differences between 2016 and 2008. Brexit is a regional political event, not a global financial crisis. Leverage in the sector had been more conservative, and UK banks’ exposure to commercial property lending has halved since the

financial crisis, according to the Bank of England. And eight years of financial repression has boosted demand for yielding assets, especially those whose prices in dollar or euro terms have fallen. It is harder to imagine a scenario where there are no buyers, at any price, for UK property assets. One thing that has not changed is the unsuitability of open-ended structures for property investment. They are convenient for investors and facilitate asset-gathering among managers, but offering daily prices on assets that can take months to sell is asking for trouble. Ordinary investors are (again) finding out the hard way that permanent capital is the way to invest in real estate.

Private equity: the Twinkie defence

Twinkies — those tubular yellow cakes fat with white cream filling — are déclassé but decadent. Their production, it seems, calls for austerity. Two private equity groups bought the Twinkies brand out of bankruptcy for \$410m three years ago. Yesterday, that latest Twinkie parent company, Hostess Brands, announced a complex transaction to list its shares at a valuation of \$2.3bn. Add in a \$900m debt-financed dividend paid last year, and the bounty for the owners is vast.

The turnaround involved cutting the number of factories and (unionised) employees, and using more machines. The elite making a pile on an esteemed brand while pensions and jobs disappear makes the Twinkies revival an ideal symbol for those who suspect something has gone badly wrong in the modern economy. When Twinkies went belly up in 2012, it was bucking under debt, pension obligations and an inefficient production system churning out both snacks and bread. It had 18,000 employees.

Apollo and C. Dean Metropoulos picked off Twinkies and a few other cake brands, as well as some production assets, leaving the rest of the carcass to others. The new Hostess has just a couple of thousand employees, not selected from the ranks of the bakers union. The factories have cutting-edge robotics. The owners boast of industry-leading margins. The Twinkie maker is to merge with a shell company that was listed in order to acquire a private business. Hostess is valued at a healthy 10 times earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation. Apollo and Metropoulos will take money off the table but will maintain a 42 per cent stake in the listed group. The pair would probably claim that without unsentimental measures Twinkies would no longer exist. Their character witnesses could be the pension funds that invest in these ruthlessly efficient buyout firms.

FT Lex on the web
For notes on today's breaking stories go to www.ft.com/lex

WEATHER

Today's temperatures

Location	Temp	Maximum for day °C	
Abu Dhabi	Sun 40	Malta	Sun 30
Amsterdam	Fair 18	Manila	Thunder 32
Ankara	Fair 29	Miami	Fair 33
Athens	Sun 34	Milan	Sun 33
Bahrain	Sun 40	Montreal	Cloudy 30
Barcelona	Sun 29	Moscow	Fair 22
Beijing	Sun 32	Mumbai	Thunder 30
Belfast	Rain 15	Munich	Fair 24
Belgrade	Cloudy 25	Naples	Sun 30
Berlin	Fair 20	New York	Fair 33
Brussels	Fair 19	Nice	Sun 27
Budapest	Sun 27	Nicosia	Sun 38
Cairo	Sun 37	Oslo	Fair 22
Cardiff	Cloudy 19	Paris	Fair 23
Chicago	Shower 32	Prague	Fair 19
Cologne	Fair 20	Reykjavik	Fair 15
Copenhagen	Shower 18	Riga	Thunder 19
Delhi	Fair 36	Rio	Sun 31
Dubai	Sun 38	Rome	Sun 28
Dublin	Cloudy 18	San Francisco	Fair 19
Edinburgh	Cloudy 16	Singapore	Shower 31
Frankfurt	Fair 21	Stockholm	Fair 23
Geneva	Sun 25	Strasbourg	Fair 22
Hamburg	Shower 17	Sydney	Rain 17
Helsinki	Fair 21	Tokyo	Fair 27
Hong Kong	Fair 30	Toronto	Fair 33
Istanbul	Sun 29	Vancouver	Cloudy 20
Lisbon	Sun 27	Vienna	Sun 23
London	Fair 21	Warsaw	Shower 19
Los Angeles	Fair 23	Washington	Fair 33
Luxembourg	Fair 21	Zagreb	Fair 26
Madrid	Sun 34	Zurich	Fair 23

KEEP THE SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR FUNDS

Publish your funds in the Financial Times and reach an affluent audience.
Contact data@ft.com or +44 (0) 20 7873 3132

FINANCIAL TIMES
Make the right connections

CROSSWORD

No. 15,285 Set by AARDVARK

ACROSS

1 Primate's an important person with great standing westwards (6)
4 A racket's produced by disturbance over in slaughterhouse (8)
9 Make pitiful money in Asia, restricting tot (6)
10 US sportsman to remain before game in part of changing facilities? (4,4)
12 Sound equipment used by Durham psychologist (4)
13 Greek character starts to hobble about on mountain (5)
14 Callas doesn't need intro for song (4)
17 Father's on a holiday that's ridiculously dear – March, in America (6,6)
20 Novelist Jack takes Porsche with Dan, tearing around circuit (6,6)
23 Sports venue's toilet round back (4)
24 Sub from United stole limelight ultimately (1-4)
25 Weird headless deity is a mythical creature (4)
28 Medic's energy transfixes poet seen by A + E initially? (8)
29 Copier's component has run out inside (6)
30 Slightly flushed woman mixed drink (4,4)
31 Early fall leads to Irish colt getting infected (6)

DOWN

1 Thin material in work uniform accepted by Sister (8)
2 During break, record advert about European city (8)

3 Listen! Little weight's apparent over six months? (4)
5 Just bay horse briefly relaxing on the trailer (2,1,5,4)
6 English runner in casual top, half-exposed (4)
7 One's outside light on for work (6)
8 Oriental fellow in desert's warm again (6)
11 One praises director etc's filmmaking equipment (12)
15 Physician collects green ornamentation (5)
16 Charlie regularly hit out after personal data revealed (5)
18 Western street in Paris grey when described by bird (4,4)
19 In command after dynamic raid at sea (8)
21 Refusal by mum to increase meal (4-2)
22 Did model, in audition, deserve heavenly body? (6)
26 I've turned fifty – head covering needed (4)
27 Spread bit of butter on middle of crepe (4)

Solution 15,284

F	O	R	E	G	O	R	E	S	P	I	G	H	T
U	A	B	A	R	D	V	A	R	K				
S	P	I	R	A	L	A	B	S	I	N	T	H	
I	N	O	L	N	O	X							
L	A	D	I	E	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E	
E	X	O	D	U	S	I	N	T					
R	P	S	E	A	R	O	M	S	R				
M	B	E	P	I	R	A	T	E					
A	N	A	L	I	S	I	S	T	I	O			
N	N	P	R	S	T	I	L						
D	R	A	M	A	T	I	C	B	I	R	E	M	
E	N	S	I	N	A	T	I	O					
R	O	A	D	S	I	G	N	A	L	M	O	S	

Cartier

DRIVE DE CARTIER
MANUFACTURE MOVEMENT 1904 MC

THE DRIVE DE CARTIER COLLECTION IS ELEGANCE REDEFINED. THE SLEEK LINES OF THIS CUSHION-SHAPED WATCH CREATE A TRULY STYLISH PIECE, BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE MAISON MANUFACTURE MOVEMENT 1904 MC. ESTABLISHED IN 1847, CARTIER CREATES EXCEPTIONAL WATCHES THAT COMBINE DARING DESIGN AND WATCHMAKING SAVOIR-FAIRE.

Shop the collection on cartier.com

★

Companies & Markets

FINANCIAL TIMES

Japan's Palaeolithic PCs
Tech in the deflation era
LEO LEWIS, PAGE 14



Volkswagen
2.87%
€108.20

Sharp
5.61%
¥101

US Steel
3.53%
\$17.63

Sterling/euro
1.2%
€1.1762

FTSE Mid 250
2.4%
15,734

10yr US Treasury
10bp
1.36%

Brent oil
4%
\$48.11

CBOE Vix
10%
16.25

Chevron to boost Kazakh oil output

◆ \$36.8bn Tengiz field expansion bucks trend ◆ Biggest move by oil majors this decade

ED CROOKS — NEW YORK
JACK FARCHY — ALMATY

A \$36.8bn expansion of the Tengiz oil-field in Kazakhstan, the largest investment by private sector oil companies this decade, has been given the go-ahead by Chevron, bucking the trend of delays and cancellations resulting from the crude crash.

The green light for the plan is a rarity at a time when oil companies have been slashing capital spending and holding back on new commitments to large developments in particular.

The investment will add 260,000 barrels per day of crude to production at Tengiz. That would increase the output

at TCO, the Chevron-led consortium that runs the field, by 44 per cent from its average of 595,000 b/d last year. The expansion is scheduled to deliver oil from 2022.

The industry's expected spending between 2015 and 2020 has dropped by about \$1tn, or 22 per cent, since 2014, according to Wood Mackenzie.

Chevron is cutting its planned capital spending from nearly \$42bn in 2013 to a planned \$25bn this year. It has several mega-projects coming on stream between 2014 and 2017, and has set a strategy of shifting towards smaller, more flexible investments.

But the fact that Tengiz is already in production, rather than a greenfield

development, makes the investment more attractive. The project will break even with an oil price at about today's levels of \$50 a barrel, according to people close to two of the companies in the Tengiz consortium.

The economics of the project have also been helped by the downturn in the industry, which has cut the cost of equipment and contracts with service providers.

Jay Johnson, Chevron's executive vice-president for oil and gas production, said the project was "well-timed to take advantage of lower costs of oil industry goods and services".

Matthew Sagers, senior director of Russia & Caspian Energy at IHS, the

260,000 b/d
Crude the investment will add at the oilfield, lifting output 44% at consortium TCO

\$25bn
Chevron's planned capital spending this year, down from nearly \$42bn in 2013

consultancy, said: "The project's economics are not wonderful, but at the same time they're solid. You don't need a ridiculously high price to recognise the benefits."

TCO is 50 per cent owned by Chevron, 25 per cent by ExxonMobil, 20 per cent by KazMunaiGas, Kazakhstan's state oil group, and 5 per cent by Russia's Lukoil.

In terms of investments by private sector oil companies, the Tengiz expansion is larger than any of the other big oil and gas projects approved this decade, including BP's \$28bn expansion of the Shah Deniz gas development in Azerbaijan, and Total and Novatek's \$26.9bn Yamal LNG plant in Russia, both given the go-ahead in 2013.

Short View

Katie Martin



It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a stiff upper lip as markets convulse after the UK's vote to leave the EU. But let us give it a try.

Exhibit 1: the FTSE 100. Look at it go. After a dent in the immediate aftermath of the vote, it has risen to a high for the year. Shares in British American Tobacco are up 18 per cent since the post-vote low. Who says stress-induced smoking is all bad? Silver miner Fresnillo's shares are up more than 50 per cent.

Exhibit 2: sterling. There's a currency war on, you know, and Blighty is winning. A drop in the pound is just what exporters need, and heaven knows it has fallen. The currency has not been weaker than this since 1985, before many currency traders were born.

Exhibit 3: gilts. UK government bonds have never had it so good. Yields are on the floor and the government has shown it can borrow new five-year cash at super-skinny yields with very healthy demand (1.8 bids received for each one accepted).

So is everything awesome? No.

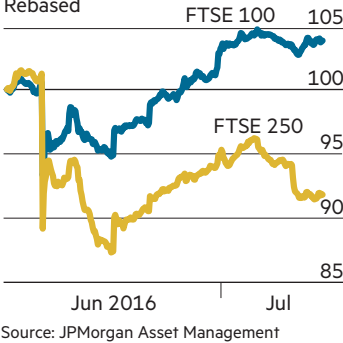
What is going on is, at best, a nasty shortlived shock. At worst, it is a full-on reassessment of the case for investing in the UK. The FTSE 100 is in a happier place but that is thanks to an unprecedented collapse in sterling that is a fillip to UK-listed companies earning their crust overseas. Ciggie shares fall into that camp, as do miners and energy companies. The FTSE 250, packed with more domestic names, is still 9 per cent below the peak it saw before the referendum result was known, and that is with the help of expectations for more easing from the Bank of England this summer.

Sterling's slide will continue to support some exporters. But as the drop after the 2008 crisis showed, it is heroic to argue that this will spark a manufacturing boom, particularly while the UK is exporting mainly political strife to its European neighbours.

And gilts are in full-blown recession territory. The punchline: they are at risk of falling horribly if the wilting pound succeeds in pumping up inflation.

Accentuate the positive if you must. But let us not be silly. This is not a game.

Made in the UK?



The FTSE 100 is in a happier place thanks to sterling's collapse while the FTSE 250 is still 9% below the peak it saw before the referendum result

katie.martin@ft.com

Cultural theory

Vice sees the virtue of Zhukova's magazine

Vice Media has acquired a controlling stake in Garage, an art and culture magazine founded by Dasha Zhukova, wife of Russian tycoon Roman Abramovich, as the brand pushes into contemporary art, writes **Matthew Garrahan**.

Vice said it would bolster Garage's online presence, building a digital video channel, expanding its editorial team and launching international editions. Ms Zhukova, Garage editor-in-chief, will continue in her role. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Ms Zhukova, pictured right at her Garage museum in Moscow, and her husband have become big participants in the art world with a private collection that includes works by Freud and Bacon.

Ms Zhukova was a founding partner of Artsy, an online art sales site, alongside Google's Eric Schmidt and Wendi Deng, Rupert Murdoch's ex-wife.

Vice's interest in the art world follows the investment in Frieze, the London art fair and publisher, by WME-IMG, the sport and entertainment group run by Ari Emanuel and Patrick Whitesell.

With Garage, Vice will follow a template it set four years ago when it acquired i-D, a fashion magazine, and relaunched it as a digital video brand.



Pavel Golovkin/AP

German carmakers and parts groups raided in steel purchase cartel probe

PATRICK MCGEE — FRANKFURT
PETER CAMPBELL — LONDON

Six of Germany's largest carmakers and parts suppliers were raided by the country's cartel authority yesterday over suspicions that they had colluded when buying steel.

Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz owner Daimler confirmed the raids, which were conducted on June 23 by Germany's Federal Cartel Office, supported by police and crime authorities.

Bosch and ZF, two of the country's largest parts suppliers to the car industry, were raided at two separate locations, the companies confirmed.

The sixth company has not made itself known.

The raids follow a number of probes in recent years on car parts ranging from airbags to lighting systems.

Joaquin Almunia, the EU's former antitrust chief, quipped in 2014 that if each part under investigation were added up, "we can have almost a fully-fledged car".

A spokesman for the cartel office said the investigations could last months, or in some cases three to five years. He clarified that the suspicions related to the purchasing of steel, rather than the classic cartel practice of colluding over prices of goods to be sold.

"It's very difficult to make a judgment," Marc-René Tonn, analyst at Warburg Research, said. The fact that the probe was about steel added a layer

of uncertainty because there were so many different kinds of the material used for different purposes in a car.

Steel is one of the most important materials for the car industry, accounting for about a third of raw material costs. An average car contains about 900kg of steel, according to the World Steel Association.

In 2014 the EU fined German parts supplier Schaeffler €371m and Sweden's SKF €315m for colluding with four Japanese suppliers on sales of ball bearings. The investigations began with raids in November 2011.

The Federal Cartel Office has the power to levy fines of up to 10 per cent of turnover, though this upper limit is rarely reached.

Companies / Sectors / People

Companies	
1Malaysia Development Berhad	115
AC Milan	23
AP Moller-Maersk	14
Aberdeen	17
Aberdeen Asset Management	1
Accenture	16
Agricultural Bank of China	16
Alibaba	16
Amazon	16
Apollo	12
Artsy	13
Atlético Madrid	16
Aviva	12
Aviva Investors	17
BB&T	17
BMW	13
BP	13
Barratt Developments	123
Bats Global Markets	22
Berkeley Group	123
Bosch	13
British American Tobacco	13,14,23
British Land	12
CME Group	22

Campbell Soup	23
Central Huijin Investment	16
Chesapeake	23
Chevron	113
China Construction Bank	16
China International Capital Corp	16
China Investment Securities	16
China Mobile	16
Convergex	22
Credit Suisse	14
Daimler	13
Dalian Wanda Group	16
Diageo	23
Dixons Carphone	23
Equiniti	16
ExxonMobil	13
First Gulf Bank	12
Fresnillo	13
Frieze	13
Goldman Sachs	15
Google	13
Harley-Davidson	23
Hostess Brands	12
IBM	16
Imperial Brands	14,23

Indus Capital Partners	24
Infosys	16
Inter Milan	16
Intercontinental Exchange	22
Japan Tobacco	14
Jupiter	17
KKR	23
KazMunaiGas	13
Land Securities	13
Lazard	12
Legal & General	11
Libyan Investment Authority	15
Lukoil	13
M&G	12,17,17
M&T Bank	17
Man Group	17
Manchester City	16
Marathon Oil	23
Mercedes-Benz	13
Microsoft	16
Monte dei Paschi di Siena	24
Morgan Stanley	16
Mphasis	16
Murphy Oil	23
NEC	14

Nasdaq	22
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	12
Novatek	13
OSTC	22
Paddy Power Betfair	16
Persimmon	123
Philip Morris International	14
SAP	16
SKF	13
Salesforce	16
Schaeffler	13
Shawbrook	23
Sinopec	16
Smith & Nephew	23
SoftBank	24
Southwestern Energy	23
Sprint	24
St Modwen	1
Standard Life	12,17
SunTrust	17
Suning Holdings	16
TCS	16
Tata Consultancy Services	16
Tencent	24
Total	13

UBS	14
Unilever	23
Vice Media	14
Volkswagen	13
WME-IMG	13
Walgreens Boots Alliance	23
WeChat	17
Wells Fargo	14
Whitbread	23
Wipro	16
ZF	13
Sectors	
Automobiles	13
Banks	14,15
Construction	12
Energy	13
Financial Services	12
Financials	12,15,17
Industrial Goods	13
Industrials	13
Insurance	12,16
Media	13
Mining	13
Oil & Gas	13,14

Personal & Household Goods	13
Retail & Consumer	13
Shipping	14
Technology	13,16
Tobacco	14
Travel & Leisure	16,16
People	
Abramovich, Roman	13
Aucamp, Jonny	22
Ayyar, Ganesh	16
Berlusconi, Silvio	16
Chandrasekaran, Natarajan	16
Deng, Wendi	13
Emanuel, Ari	13
Jianlin, Wang	16
Johnson, Jay	13
Murdoch, Rupert	13
Noll, Eric	22
Pram Rasmussen, Michael	14
Rao, Pravin	16
Schmidt, Eric	13
Skou, Soren	14
Whitesell, Patrick	13
Zhu, Levin	16
Zhukova, Dasha	13

Whether you need to send funds abroad for personal or corporate payments, our secure service can help you make the most of your international transfer requirements.

- ✓ Bank-beating exchange rates
- ✓ Low transfer fees
- ✓ Personal account manager
- ✓ Innovative online platform
- ✓ Authorised and regulated by the FCA
- ✓ Safeguarded client funds

TO GET YOUR FIRST TRANSFER FREE
call +44(0)333 130 2870
visit www.moneycorp.com/ft

moneycorp

COMPANIES

Tobacco

EU to end anti-cigarette smuggling deal

Brussels will not renew its ‘ineffective’ arrangement with Philip Morris

DUNCAN ROBINSON — BRUSSELS

The EU is to end a controversial \$1.25bn deal with Philip Morris International aimed at reducing trade in illicit cigarettes following criticism from lawmakers. A change in smuggling trends coupled with tougher EU anti-tobacco laws — which came into force this year — mean that the agreements are no longer necessary, according to officials who confirmed the move. MEPs had called on the European Commission not to renew the agreement with Philip Morris, arguing that it was ineffective and inappropriate, particularly as the World Health Organisation’s tobacco rules call for a general separation between governments and tobacco companies. The deal came after the EU took Philip Morris to court in the 1990s, alleging that the world’s biggest tobacco company was not doing enough to stop the flow of cigarettes smuggled into the bloc. Under the terms of the 2004 agreement, the Marlboro-maker agreed to monitor more closely illicit cigarettes — which have not had the correct duty paid on them — as well as pay a contribution to the EU. The surprise decision not to renew the deal also puts similar agreements with British American Tobacco, Japan Tobacco and Imperial Brands in doubt. But these deals do not have to be renewed until at least 2022. The number of cigarettes seized

under the scheme has dwindled in recent years. In 2014, only 14m cigarettes belonging to Philip Morris were seized — an amount that would fit into two shipping containers. This was 85 per cent lower than in 2006. Luk Joossens, a tobacco control expert at the Association of European Cancer Leagues, welcomed the decision. “It was not worth working with industry,” he said. “There is always suspicion from other countries because the EU collaborates with industries.” Philip Morris and others in the industry, launched an unsuccessful legal challenge in the EU’s highest court against the new rules on tobacco, which require strict tracing requirements of tobacco sales and ban certain types of cigarettes. Bart Staes, a Belgian MEP who had argued against the renewal, said: “With Philip Morris and others having taken

\$1.25bn
EU’s controversial deal, which was struck in 2004, with the world’s biggest tobacco company

14m
The number of Philip Morris-owned cigarettes seized in 2014 — 85% lower than in 2006

an unsuccessful legal challenge against the recently agreed EU tobacco rules, it would have been inappropriate to conclude a parallel new bilateral agreement with the industry in this context.” Philip Morris, which had indicated that it wanted the arrangement to continue, said: “What matters most for us is that the supply chain control measures contained within it will remain an integral part of how we do business in the EU and around the world. With or without the agreement, our commitment to fight illegal trade around the world remains intact and stronger than ever.”

FT Beyond the law
The new mantra for EU governments when dealing with rules of which they are not fond
ft.com/brusselsblog

INSIDE BUSINESS

ASIA

Leo Lewis



Japan’s computer cannibals reveal glitch in Abenomics plan

Operating from a flimsy hilltop warehouse in the backwoods of Japan’s Izu peninsula, Tomoharu Iguchi is a highly successful technology cannibal. His existence is one of the country’s darker secrets: a necessary strut in a corporate edifice defined by decades of deflation.

For those who picture Japanese production lines at the bleeding-edge of modernity, Mr Iguchi’s business of disassembling, scavenging and supplying parts from long obsolete computers, seems improbable. His stockroom — a precariously stacked jumble of grimy monitors, half-gutted ’90s-era PCs and spaghetti knots of yellowed keyboard and mouse cabling — should not logically be humming with activity in 2016.

But his customer base — a nationwide, 1,000-strong list of Japanese companies that includes major railway operators, auto-parts giants, drugmakers, retailers and hundreds of small manufacturers — reveals a rather more threadbare Japan. It cannot live without its creaking, underpowered, 20-year-old computers. Or Mr Iguchi.

Mr Iguchi is hardly to be blamed for the phenomenon, but the corporate mindset and decision-making that keeps him in business are one of the main reasons that Abenomics is having such a hard time gaining traction.

Larger Japanese manufacturers, as reflected in the Bank of Japan’s most recent Tankan survey of business sentiment, are narrowly planning to raise their IT spending. But the less visible industrial heartlands are dragging their heels.

Those managers and business owners who opt for Mr Iguchi’s services have spent a large part of their careers in the shadow of deflation. For them, cost-cutting — to the point of not replacing computers — has become a cherished corporate skill and guarantee of promotion.

Abenomics, though, is suddenly calling on companies to be risk-taking innovators, and to reward a different set of skills. In practical terms, Mr Iguchi’s business, while admirably lucrative for him, indulges Japan’s wider antipathy to capital spending. And it does so just when the “virtuous circle” proponents in prime minister Abe’s team need capex to advance at ramming speed and haul the economy with it.

An extensive critique of the Japanese economy by the Daiwa Institute of Research last week cited weak corporate investment as one of the three main reasons that Abenomics and the Bank of Japan’s negative interest rate policy have yet to refire the growth engines.

Computer cannibalisation highlights the blockage. Mr Iguchi is entirely focused on the PC-98 — a famously workhorse-like series of computers first produced by the Japanese technology group NEC in the 1980s. A Japanese-made computer, it was suited to Japanese use at a time when Japan was buying.

A decade later, the arrival of the internet and flatscreen monitors created hot demand for new computers across corporate Japan. As offices upgraded their desktops, manufacturing and other sectors took the same opportunity to embed a new generation of machines in production lines, points of sale and back-office operations.

But the PC-98 was rather too successful: the machines were so user friendly and so deeply embedded, says Mr Iguchi, that for years nobody could see any good reason to replace them. Until 2010, NEC was still making replacement parts. Many took the 2010 cut-off as the prompt to finally ditch their old machines, but thousands decided that the cost was simply too high.

As a result, PC-98s are still embedded in production lines. They cannot simply be replaced with something newer, and replacing entire production lines instead seems recklessly expensive when people like Mr Iguchi are around to replace the crucial burnt-out microchip for a few thousand yen.

That prudence, say analysts, is what Abenomics is fundamentally up against. Goldman Sachs points out that the June Tankan survey, even after an upward revision from March, found that full-year 2016 capex plans across all companies and industries were the weakest for several years. Risks are all to the downside — and that was before Brexit added further spice to market uncertainties.

Meanwhile, Mr Iguchi still has hundreds of brand new machines, bought from NEC at fire-sale prices when the PC-98 was discontinued. They sit, ready to be broken apart and sold piece by piece — keeping the ancient computers of Japan running, and capex plans on hold for another year.

leo.lewis@ft.com

Industrials. Growth plan

Maersk’s new helmsman on lookout for revenue

Chief to undertake strategic review as conglomerate faces headwinds in shipping and oil

RICHARD MILNE
NORDIC CORRESPONDENT

The new chief executive of AP Møller-Maersk has signalled that one of his main priorities is to boost revenues at the Danish shipping-to-oil conglomerate after a decade of stagnation. In his first interview since starting the job last Friday, Søren Skou told the Financial Times that the group was buffeted by short-term “headwinds” in all of its businesses — from the world’s largest container shipping line to oil production and drilling rigs. “In the long term, we are challenged on top-line growth. Obviously, for us it’s important that we have a group that is both profitable but also has a growth path . . . If you have a business that isn’t growing the top line it’s very hard to deliver attractive returns to shareholders,” said Mr Skou, who is also head of Maersk Line, the group’s container ship-

“The board has asked me to look at the strategic options. We are going to look at the full menu”

ping unit. The European industrial heavyweight sent shockwaves through the markets last month when it fired its chief executive and hinted that it could break up the 112-year conglomerate. Maersk’s chairman, Michael Pram Rasmussen, told the Financial Times 10 days ago: “Should we be a group as we are today, or might it be an idea to have a number of different separate businesses instead?” He has charged Mr Skou with leading a strategic review of the conglomerate, and the board will update investors by the end of September. Mr Skou gave little away in the interview as to the likely outcome, but he indicated that there were no sacred cows. “The board has asked me to look at the strategic options. We are not starting with a lot of do nots, or areas where we don’t want to go. We are going to look at the full menu of options,” he added. Mr Rasmussen hinted that Maersk Line — which accounts for more than half of the conglomerate’s revenues — would be the cornerstone of any future company as Mr Skou will permanently combine his job running it with his new role as group chief executive. Mr Skou, 51, who has worked at the Danish group for the past



Søren Skou says his digitalisation push at Maersk Line may be extended within the group

Edgar Su/Reuters



33 years, gained a reputation with investors as a cost cutter after he boosted Maersk Line’s profitability and made it the market leader in volumes and margins after taking the helm in 2012. Before that, he was for a decade head of Maersk Tankers, whose ships transport oil and gas all over the world. “He has been impressive at Maersk Line and we hope he can shake the group up,” said a leading Danish fund manager. Mr Skou said his latest initiative at Maersk Line of “standardising, automating, digitalising” gave it “some new growth opportunities” that could be applied to the group’s other transport-related businesses, including port terminals and marine service companies. Maersk generated \$40bn of revenues last year, compared with \$44bn in 2006 and a peak of \$61bn in 2008. Like Mr Rasmussen, Mr Skou said acquisitions could take

place at Maersk, without giving any specifics. Nils Andersen, Mr Skou’s predecessor, streamlined the conglomerate by selling its big stakes in Denmark’s largest bank and supermarket chain. But during Mr Andersen’s more than eight years in charge, shares fell about 40 per cent, though shareholders benefited from a multibillion-dollar special dividend and stock buyback programme. Mr Skou said that creating value for shareholders was another goal of the strategic review. “We have created a massive amount of value previously. In the last decade we have not. We have to figure out how to change that,” he added. Some analysts have speculated that Maersk Oil, the conglomerate’s mid-sized exploration and production business, could be sold, especially after one of its main assets — a Qatari oilfield — was stripped from it after a tender proc-

ess. Mr Skou refused to speculate on whether assets could be sold but added that Maersk had been a conglomerate for a long time. “The ability of the group to have financial strength and leverage different businesses in different cycles has many times been shown to be an advantage,” he said. But he also hinted at frustration inside Maersk that diversifying from container shipping in an attempt to offset the volatility of that business had not worked in the current business cycle. Freight rates for container shipping were at a record low earlier this year while oil prices are still weak, leading Mr Andersen in February to warn that business conditions for the company were worse than at the peak of the 2008 financial crisis. Mr Skou said: “Those headwinds are short-term challenges, but I think it’s rather unfortunate that we have them in both of our industries at the same time.”

Technology

Ashley Madison faces FTC ‘fem-bots’ probe

HANNAH KUCHLER — SAN FRANCISCO

Ashley Madison, the adultery website that was hacked last year, is under investigation by the US Federal Trade Commission for its use of bots to chat with paying male customers, the company said. The dating website was attacked by cybercriminals last summer, exposing the identities of its would-be adulterers subscribers and internal documents that appeared to show that it used so-called “fem-bots” so that men would believe they were engaging with real women willing to have an affair. Avid Life Media, which owns Ashley

Madison and other dating sites including CougarLife and EstablishedMen, has appointed a new chief executive Rob Segal to attempt a fresh start at the company. Mr Segal, the former chief executive of esports company WorldGaming, told Reuters that the FTC had been investigating its use of bots, and a spokesperson confirmed the company had been “proactively sharing information with regulatory authorities” since August 2015. The FTC did not respond to requests for comment. Mr Segal said bots, thought to have been deployed because there were far more men than women on the site, were

no longer used. James Millership, newly appointed as president at Ashley Madison after working under Mr Segal at WorldGaming, added: “My understanding is that bots are widespread in the industry, but they are no longer being used, and will not be used, at Avid Life Media and Ashley Madison.” Ashley Madison, which used to advertise itself with the tagline “Life is short. Have an affair” is trying to reposition itself as the dating website for the “open-minded” and people with an “adventurous spirit”, rather than just those looking for extramarital affairs. It is looking at acquisitions, partnerships and a total rebranding, Mr Millership said.

Banks

UBS fights French demand for accounts data

RALPH ATKINS — ZÜRICH

UBS is launching a legal challenge to a demand that it surrender historical information on French customers’ accounts, in the latest example of a clash between tax authorities and Switzerland’s banks. Zürich-based UBS revealed yesterday that it had been asked for information on the accounts of current and former French-domiciled clients dating from 2006 to 2008. This request was made by French tax authorities and passed on by their Swiss counterparts under a French-Swiss double tax treaty. However, UBS said it had “expressed

its concern . . . that the legal grounds for this request are ambiguous at best”, and decided that the demand should be challenged in the Swiss federal administrative court “to ensure legal clarity”. It claimed it had launched its challenge because the data and justification cited in the French authorities’ request “lack the required specificity”. Swiss courts are considering a similar legal challenge to an information request submitted by the Dutch tax authorities. Over the past decade, Swiss banks that helped their international clients to evade tax have faced a clampdown by both European and US authorities. US authorities have imposed billions of dol-

lars in fines on institutions including on UBS and Credit Suisse. Swiss financial institutions have since overhauled their business models and introduced procedures to ensure customers comply with tax laws. From next January, under agreements on the exchange of tax-relevant information, Swiss banks will also have to provide information to French and other tax authorities on an annual basis. But banks such as UBS still face having to deal with “legacy” issues dating from before these recent reforms. France’s request for account information was based on data supplied to its tax authorities by Germany.

COMPANIES

1MDB probe poses risks for Goldman Sachs

Investigation into possible violations by bank in its handling of securities proceeds adds to list of regulatory woes

DAVID J LYNCH — WASHINGTON,
JEEVAN VASAGAR — SINGAPORE
BEN MCLANNAHAN — NEW YORK

Two blocks from the White House, in a century-old stone building once owned by Lehman Brothers, federal prosecutors are probing the activities of Goldman Sachs in Malaysia.

Department of Justice officials are investigating whether the Wall Street bank violated the Bank Secrecy Act in its handling of the proceeds of securities offerings for 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), a state investment fund embroiled in a long-running scandal over claims of misappropriation. Regulators at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve are also scrutinising the bank’s conduct, says one person familiar with the probes.

“Any time you have illicit activity going through international banks, you’ve got — potentially — exposure by those banks for failing to do a good enough job of figuring out the purpose of those transfers,” says one former federal prosecutor.

For Goldman, the probe is another regulatory entanglement to add to a long list. The bank’s latest quarterly filing with the SEC sets out seven pages of legal proceedings — including an action in the High Court in London, pitting the bank against the Libyan Investment Authority — which could cost the bank up to \$1.9bn more than the amounts it has reserved for losses. Any unexpected hits would further eat away at returns, in a year in which the bank is expected to struggle to meet its profit targets.

US prosecutors are focusing on Goldman’s role in advising on three bond deals for 1MDB between 2012 and 2013, in which the fund — then overseen by an advisory board headed by Najib Razak, the prime minister — raised about \$6.5bn. Goldman earned \$593m in fees along the way — a sum which it says is explained by the risk it ran by holding the offerings on its books.

In a deal in March 2013, Goldman bought bonds with a face value of \$3bn for \$2.71bn — then asked Standard & Poor’s to provide a rating, so it could sell them on to investors. At the time, Goldman declined to comment on the transaction but told the FT the bank had conducted “the same consistently high global standards of due diligence and business selection in connection with all securities offerings”.

Goldman declined to comment on the DoJ investigation. 1MDB and Mr Najib have denied any wrongdoing.

No charges have been filed against Goldman or its executives and none appears imminent, says a person close to the situation. Investigators first hope to interview several bank employees.

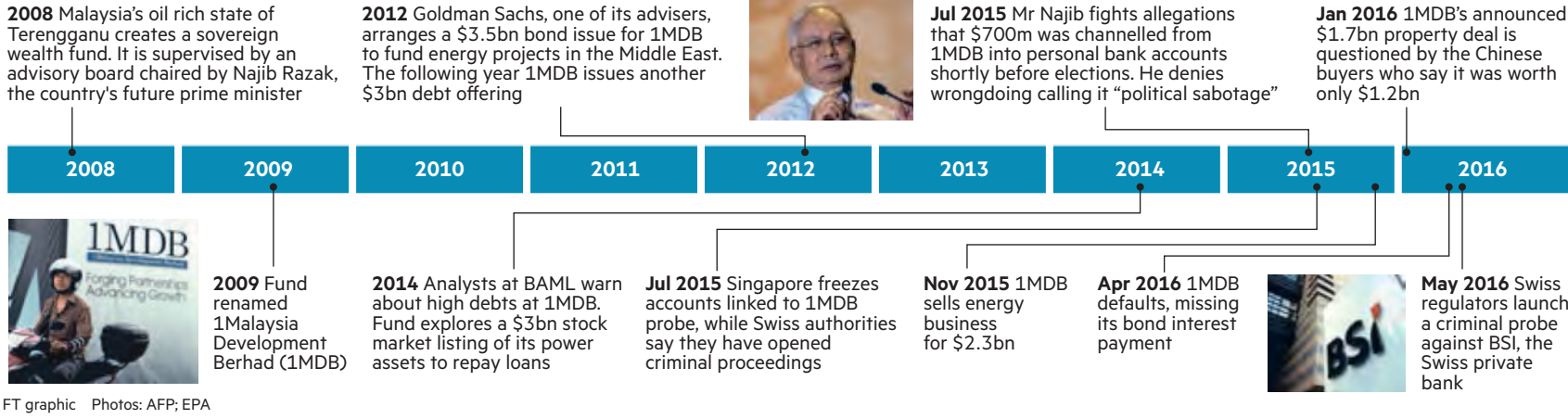
The office of the US attorney for the Eastern District of New York is also investigating Goldman’s role advising the Malaysian fund, while other DoJ units, as well as federal prosecutors in Los Angeles, are investigating aspects of the 1MDB affair. Those include potential misappropriation involving Malaysian officials associated with the fund.

At issue is Goldman’s compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act, a 1970 law that gained teeth with passage of the Patriot Act following the 2001 terrorist attacks. Under the Act, all financial institutions



1MDB’s Tun Razak Exchange development in Kuala Lumpur — Olivia Harris/Reuters

Timeline: 1MDB



are required to maintain programmes to prevent money laundering, including notifying authorities of suspicious customer transactions. Banks are required to have robust internal controls, independent testing, a compliance officer responsible for daily monitoring and adequate training for employees. Large banks typically rely upon a mix of manual and automated systems to detect suspect transactions.

In the 1MDB case, Goldman employees had an obligation to be especially careful when dealing with Mr Najib — who set up the fund in 2009 — his relatives, or other senior Malaysian government officials. The law requires enhanced due diligence when handling transactions connected to a “politically exposed person”.

That provision requires the bank to

Goldman employees had an obligation to be especially careful when dealing with Najib Razak

ask extra questions and seek independent verification on funds going through it and to monitor any account associated with such senior government officials. “That’s where the exposure lies,” says a second former federal prosecutor.

The DoJ investigation is led by the bank integrity unit of the asset forfeiture and money laundering division, where veteran trial attorneys are scrutinising the adequacy of Goldman’s internal anti-money laundering controls, the person said. The division’s main hallway is lined with framed testimonials to the corporate scalps it has collected over the years, including those of companies such as Enron and Bank Credit and Commerce International.

Investigators are considering a host of issues, including the overall rigour of Goldman’s anti-money laundering programme. Prosecutors typically evaluate how much a specific transaction differs from the bank’s standard practice; how much headquarters knew about the details; and the incentives created by the bank’s compensation structure. One red flag that prosecutors look for: indications that compliance officers alerted

Banks

LIA official’s brother ‘given internship’

JANE CROFT — LONDON

The brother of a top Libyan official was taken on as an intern at Goldman Sachs despite the fact he was “unsuitable” for a traditional placement, a High Court trial in London heard yesterday.

Haitem Zarti, the brother of a Libyan Investment Authority director, was handed a coveted Goldman internship on a pro-rata salary of £36,000 soon after the US bank carried out loss-making trades on behalf of the country’s sovereign wealth fund in early 2008, the court heard.

The internship forms part of a lawsuit brought by the Libyan Investment Authority in which it claims the investment bank exploited its limited experience and forced it into the nine risky and ultimately loss-making derivative trades. Goldman denies the allegations.

In its case, the LIA has detailed the efforts of Youssef Kabbaj, an ambitious Goldman banker, to cement ties with the LIA.

Mr Kabbaj befriended Haitem Zarti, the younger brother of LIA executive Mustafa Zarti, and offered him the internship, the trial has heard.

Andrea Vella, a partner at Goldman Sachs, agreed in his evidence that Haitem Zarti was “unsuitable” for a traditional internship. However, he said



Goldman paid for LIA clients to attend a bank conference in Dubai

reference. The flights, five-star hotel accommodation at Dubai’s Ritz-Carlton hotel and meals at a series of top restaurants were paid for by the bank. Haitem Zarti was not an LIA employee at the time.

Philip Edey, representing the LIA, cross-examined Mr Vella on whether Mr Kabbaj’s treatment of Mr Zarti was normal for the bank.

“Is it normal to fly even a client business class to a conference abroad?” Mr Edey asked. “Probably not,” Mr Vella replied.

“Is it normal to take any client out for dinner or a meal as regularly as that?” Mr Edey asked. “Probably not,” Mr Vella replied.

The trial has already heard lurid claims about Mr Kabbaj procuring two prostitutes on the Dubai trip with Mr Zarti. Mr Vella told the court this behaviour was “inappropriate”.

Earlier in his evidence, Italian-born Mr Vella denied claims that he got so angry with Mr Kabbaj, who no longer works for Goldman, on one occasion that he took his shoe off and banged it on the table at a meeting.

But Mr Vella said he was “upset or disappointed” that Mr Kabbaj gave gifts, including iPods, to the LIA team as he sought to build ties with them.

The trial continues.

 **SPARKLE** | CLOUD & DATA CENTER PLATFORM

 **Always growing, always evolving.**

 **April 2016: Global Cloud Xchange expands reach across Europe through Sparkle SICILY HUB.**

Global Cloud Xchange, a subsidiary of Reliance Communications, has expanded its reach into Sparkle’s state-of-the-art Data Center SICILY HUB in Palermo, with a multiservice PoP providing enhanced coverage and increased diversity options to support customers’ business growth in the region. Discover Sparkle’s Cloud & Data Center Platform, an interactive ecosystem based on a global communication network in constant evolution whose governance ensures the creation of value for customers, suppliers and partners, every day, before they know they need it.

Sparkle. The world’s communication platform.

 **SPARKLE** | IP&DATA PLATFORM

 **SPARKLE** | CLOUD & DATA CENTER PLATFORM

 **SPARKLE** | CORPORATE PLATFORM

 **SPARKLE** | MOBILE PLATFORM

 **SPARKLE** | VOICE PLATFORM

 **SPARKLE**

TISPARKLE.COM

COMPANIES

Travel & leisure

Berlusconi lines up China sale of AC Milan

‘Leading companies’ join forces in €400m-plus deal for Italian football club

MURAD AHMED — LONDON
JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN — NEW YORK

AC Milan are set to be the latest top-tier European football team to move into Chinese ownership after long-time owner Silvio Berlusconi said he had sold the club.

The former Italian prime minister and media magnate told local newspapers yesterday that he had sold one of Europe’s most successful football clubs, after receiving assurances from the buyers that they would invest significantly to return the club to former glories.

Though he did not disclose the iden-

tity of those behind the purchase, Mr Berlusconi said: “Milan has now embarked on this path towards China.

“I accepted what was offered to me, that does not even take into account the value of the brand. But I demanded the commitment of the new owners, who are a group of leading Chinese companies, some also state-owned, to pay at least €400m over the next two years.”

The two sides are still finalising the terms of the agreement, according to one person involved in the talks.

The sale comes as Chinese investment in European football has grown rapidly. Last month, Chinese retail group Suning Holdings paid €270m for a 70 per cent stake for Inter Milan.

In March, billionaire Wang Jianlin’s Dalian Wanda Group agreed a deal with Fifa to sponsor the next four football

World Cups for an undisclosed sum.

Last year, Wanda acquired a 20 per cent holding in Atlético Madrid football club for €45m. A consortium of Chinese investors paid \$400m for a 13 per cent stake in Manchester City in December.

The dealmaking has the tacit approval of Beijing. Xi Jinping, China’s president, wants to make the country a football powerhouse, with the government this year approving a programme that aims to elevate China’s national team to among Asia’s best by 2030.

Mr Berlusconi, 78, bought AC Milan in

Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi bought AC Milan in 1986 when it was near bankruptcy



1986, when it was near bankruptcy and he invested significantly in the squad. The following year, he hired Arrigo Sacchi, the coach who led the club to multiple trophies, including back-to-back European Cup victories in 1989 and 1990, and created a team widely regarded as one of the world’s best.

The sale of AC Milan marks the end of an era for many Italians. Mr Berlusconi’s exit comes as the political fortunes of his Forza Italia party have been eclipsed by the rise of Matteo Renzi’s ruling centre-left Democratic party and populist groups such as the Five Star Movement and the Northern League.

For decades Mr Berlusconi tied his personal success in business and politics to those of his club, which under his ownership won eight Serie A and five European Champions League titles.

The entrepreneur, who was found guilty of bribing a senator last year, said that his legal troubles have created “other concerns” than the club.

“I have not followed AC Milan as in the past, and now I want to close a 30-year period, including 28 major successes, in the best way and I think it’s important the choice of giving Milan away to somebody who is willing to invest in the club to get it back at the top in Italy and in the world,” he said.

AC Milan finished seventh in Italy’s Serie A last season, well outside the qualification positions for European competition that provide a vital source of revenues for Europe’s biggest clubs. The club made a loss of €93.5m last year.

Last week, AC Milan appointed Vincenzo Montella, the former Italian international player, as coach.

Insurance

Euro 2016 teams hedge exposure to bonus payouts

PAUL MCCLEAN

For semi-finalists in the Euro 2016 football championship, the prospect of success is an expensive one.

The German Football Association will have to pay out €300,000 per player if Germany win, at a cost of €6.9m to the governing body, while Wales’s players and staff would share €8.7m.

Bonuses are often funded by prize money from the tournament, which, at €301m, is 50 per cent higher than in 2012, with a potential €27m going to the winning team. In other contests, however, such as domestic leagues, the potential bonuses far outweigh the prize money clubs would receive.

An increasingly popular option for teams faced with the double-edged sword of success is insurance. A governing body or football team can hedge against hefty payouts. It pays a premium and the insurer covers the cost of any bonuses.

“Whether the team wins or not, the cost for the year is known,” says Rod O’Callaghan, a director at Airtion Risk Management, a branch of Paddy Power Betfair. “If the team wins, our clients get the added advantage of paying out only a fraction of the bonus in addition to all the other trappings of success.”

Many of the national sides competing in Euro 2016 have offered players bonuses for progressing, and a handful have hedged their exposure. “There has certainly been an increase in performance-related pay in sport,” says Luke de Rougemont, a director at Hedgehog Risk Solutions, a specialist sports insurer. “We’ve seen a significant increase in premium for contractual

bonus insurance over the past two years.”

Airtion says business has grown five-fold since 2011, as bonuses increasingly form part of players’ contracts. It insures bonuses at Premier League and lower-league clubs.

Domestic competitions are prime targets for insurers. “Often bonus payouts are offset by incoming prize money, but frequently they outweigh the amount received,” says Mr De Rougemont. “Lots of clubs offer players bonus payments for winning the FA Cup, for example, but the [£3.4m] prize money for winning isn’t that significant.”

Under rules introduced by the FA in 2012, clubs can take out cover only through insurers regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FA rules also state that clubs cannot insure against “negative outcomes”, such as relegation — an issue that irks many of the insurers.

“If Arsenal failed to qualify for the Champions League group stages, it would cost them €55m, so they’d surely be interested in cover,” says Mr O’Callaghan. “And if we offered relegation cover, 16 teams would probably take it up given how uncertain the league is.”

In addition to hedging player bonuses, companies such as Airtion and Hedgehog work with retailers and sponsors to hedge their risk from promotions offered during big sporting events. Electricals retailer Currys is running a “cash for goals” event in which customers who buy a TV can claim £10 cashback for every goal scored by a team of their choice at Euro 2016. Curry’s confirmed it had hedged its potential losses.

IT services. Innovation

Bangalore’s finest eye the storm beyond the cloud

Indian groups must think quickly as data-driven shift threatens their business model

SIMON MUNDY — BANGALORE

At one end of a room at Wipro’s headquarters on the southern edge of Bangalore stands a shelf stacked with packets of Coco Pops and Special K — a training ground for robots designed to roam supermarket aisles in search of out-of-place products.

Nearby is a smart snack vending machine that can send alerts to headquarters when it is low on stock, and greets consumers through a touch-screen interface.

Such projects are a far cry from the work Indian IT services groups such as Wipro, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services did to become a crucial part of the global business landscape.

From the 1980s their low-cost skilled labour became popular among big western companies, which outsourced to them the installation and maintenance of computer systems and the running of call centres.

The sector has become a totem of the national economy, constituting a fifth of exports and giving India a reputation as a market with pockets of technical excellence and high efficiency.

But the quirky research at Wipro reflects the pressure these companies are under to overhaul their businesses amid rapid shifts in how companies spend on IT. “If we continue to offer just traditional services — that’s a shrinking space,” says Rajan Kohli, head of Wipro Digital Services, a unit set up in March last year to pursue nascent areas of IT services.

One important shift is the move to “public cloud” services offered by Amazon and Microsoft, whose huge data centres offer flexible and cost-efficient data storage and processing, allowing companies to abandon their own on-site data centres maintained by outside IT companies.

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, chief executive of TCS, takes an upbeat view of the trend. “When customers want to move to the cloud, we help them to move and manage the environment,” he says. “This is a big opportunity for us.”

TCS says 15.5 per cent of its first-quarter revenue this year came from new “digital” services. None of its leading peers has given a corresponding breakdown of sales, and TCS’s definition of “digital” is deemed vague by some analysts, who say it is difficult to assess the sector’s progress in making money from the new areas.



Wipro is researching robots and other connected machines as opportunities for graduates shrink

Namas Bhojani/Bloomberg

Sandeep Muthangi, an analyst at IIFL Institutional Equities, points out that work helping clients to migrate to the cloud will be a one-off, after which IT companies will find that many of their traditional services are redundant in the age of cloud-based enterprise software.

Moreover offerings from cloud pioneers such as Salesforce and established players such as Germany’s SAP do not entail the same need for IT services companies to install, customise and update software, he says.

Leading IT services companies have continued to increase their revenue, albeit at a lower pace, in part by aggressively chasing contracts in traditional business areas. Infosys reported a sales increase of 13.3 per cent in constant currency terms for the year to March 31.

But executives and analysts are unanimous in their view that the companies need to change dramatically to prosper in the long term.

A meeting this year of the National Association of Software and Services Companies, the India’s IT services trade body, was the “first where we experienced a genuine atmosphere of honesty and humbleness”, say analysts at HFS

Research. Companies have started to emphasise the need for expertise in building IT systems that work across office and mobile devices, and the importance of analysing the data that come from those devices.

Pravin Rao, chief operating officer of Infosys, cites an early-warning system the group developed for a mining company, which uses sensors to send alerts when mine vehicles are at risk of breaking down.

Infosys — which has long run its own college to educate recruits — has trained 80,000 employees in “design thinking” as it tries to boost margins by playing more of a consulting role, advising on the design of IT systems instead of simply taking instructions.

“Workers understand that there are a lot of new technologies out there, but most are confused about how to use them,” Mr Rao says.

In addition to the emphasis on retraining the existing workforce, the increasing sophistication of technology is likely to weigh on opportunities in what has become a prized sector for young Indian graduates. He singles out business process outsourcing, which

When it comes to disruptive innovation, ‘you have to cannibalise your own business’

consists of services such as customer support call centres.

“For areas where there is automation, you’ll be able to do it with a lesser number of people,” says Mr Rao.

Mr Muthangi warns that in terms of innovation Indian companies are not keeping pace with their US peers such as Accenture, which has expanded in emerging IT services through a spate of acquisitions in the past three years, and IBM.

There is also a clutch of young competitors offering narrowly focused cloud-based services, such as the UK’s Equiniti, which specialises in financial administration applications.

Rather than simply allowing competitors to chip away at the revenue of their traditional businesses, the Indian sector must take a more active part in the process, says Ganesh Ayyar, chief executive of Mphasis, a Bangalore-based IT service company that was acquired by Blackstone in April.

“Why did Kodak fail? They had smart people,” he says. “But it’s a very hard thing to cannibalise your own business. And for disruptive innovation, you have to be prepared to do that.”

Banks

Beijing’s CICC enters merger talks with rival state-owned group

GABRIEL WILDAU — SHANGHAI

China International Capital Corp, one of China’s most prominent investment banks, is in merger talks with rival China Investment Securities as it seeks to expand its retail footprint and pave the way for a possible mainland debut.

A merger would mark the latest tie-up between state-owned enterprises. Beijing has signalled that large-scale mergers are a central element of its effort to revitalise the state sector, whose profitability trails that of private companies.

Beijing-based CICC confirmed in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange on Monday that it was in talks with unlisted China Investment Securities. Shenzhen-based China Investment is fully owned by Central Huijin Investment, a unit of the country’s sovereign wealth fund that

serves as a holding company for shares in state-owned financial institutions. Huijin also owns 28.4 per cent of CICC.

Analysts said a merger could clear the way for CICC to list on China’s domestic market: regulations forbid a single shareholder from owning controlling stakes in multiple mainland-listed securities companies.

“This is probably primarily an effort to allow CICC to conduct an A-share [initial public offering]. The fact that Huijin also has majority stakes in other brokers violates the non-competition rule in the IPO regulation. Therefore, a merger is an important first step,” said Ivan Shi, director at Z-Ben Advisors, a consultancy that tracks China’s asset management and securities sector.

Huijin also orchestrated Shenyin & Wanguo Securities’ \$6.4bn purchase of

Shenzhen-listed Hong Yuan Securities in 2014 and now owns 25 per cent of the combined company, known as Shenwan Hongyuan Group.

CICC was founded in 1995 as a joint venture between China Construction Bank and Morgan Stanley, which sold its 34 per cent stake in 2010 to a private equity consortium led by KKR and TPG after disputes.

CICC enjoyed a golden era in the mid-2000s as it drew on the connections of Levin Zhu, its chief executive and son of former premier Zhu Rongji, to win mandates to underwrite IPOs from major state-owned enterprises.

The bank had lead roles on IPOs including Agricultural Bank of China’s \$22.1bn deal in 2010 — the world’s largest until it was surpassed by Alibaba’s \$25bn listing in 2014 — and was also an

adviser to Sinopec on the \$17.4bn sale of a stake in its retail arm. But Mr Zhu resigned in 2014 and the bank has lost market share in recent years as the IPO focus has shifted to smaller, privately owned companies, many of them listing on the Shenzhen exchange.

Additional reporting by Ma Nan

J.P.Morgan
Asset Management

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Private Bank Funds I

The meeting will be held at the location and time stated in the right-hand column. All appointments being voted on are for terms that end at the next annual general meeting.

Agenda for Meeting and Shareholder Vote

1. Presentation of the report from Auditors and Board for the past fiscal year.
2. Should shareholders adopt the Audited Annual Report for the past fiscal year?
3. Should shareholders agree to discharge the Board for the performance of its duties for the past fiscal year?
4. Should shareholders approve the Directors' fees?
5. Should the following Directors be reappointed to the Board?
Jacques Elvinger, Alain Feis, Benoit Dumont, Jean Fuchs
6. Should shareholders re-appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers Société cooperative as its Auditors?
7. Should shareholders approve the payment of any distributions shown in the Audited Annual Report for the past fiscal year?
8. Consideration of any other item that is properly presented for a vote

To **vote by proxy**, use the proxy form at jpmorganassetmanagement.com/extra. Your form must arrive at the registered office, via post or fax, by 1800 CET on Wednesday, 27 July 2016.

To **vote in person**, attend the meeting in person.

THE MEETING

Location Registered office of the Fund (see below)

Date and time Friday, 29 July 2016 at 1400 CET

Quorum None required

Voting Agenda Items will be resolved by a simple majority of the votes cast

THE FUND

Name Private Bank Funds I

Legal form SICAV - Fund type UCITS

Auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers Société coopérative

Registered office 6, route de Trèves
L-2633 Senningerberg, Luxembourg

Fax +352 3410 8000

Registration number (RCS Luxembourg) B 114378

Past fiscal year 12 months ended 31 March 2016

“in accordance with the obligations under the European Transparency Directive 2004/109/EC, Dunia Capital B.V. hereby announces that the annual accounts for the financial year ending 31/12/2015 have been adopted by the shareholder and are publicly available on: www.duniacapital.nl

Amsterdam, 5 July 2016
Dunia Capital B.V.
Board of Directors”

In accordance with the obligations under the European Transparency Directive 2004/109/EC, Demeter Investments B.V. hereby announces that the annual accounts for the financial year ending 31/12/2015 have been adopted by the shareholder and are publicly available on www.demeterinvestmentsbv.nl

Amsterdam, 5 July 2016
Demeter Investments B.V.
Board of Directors”

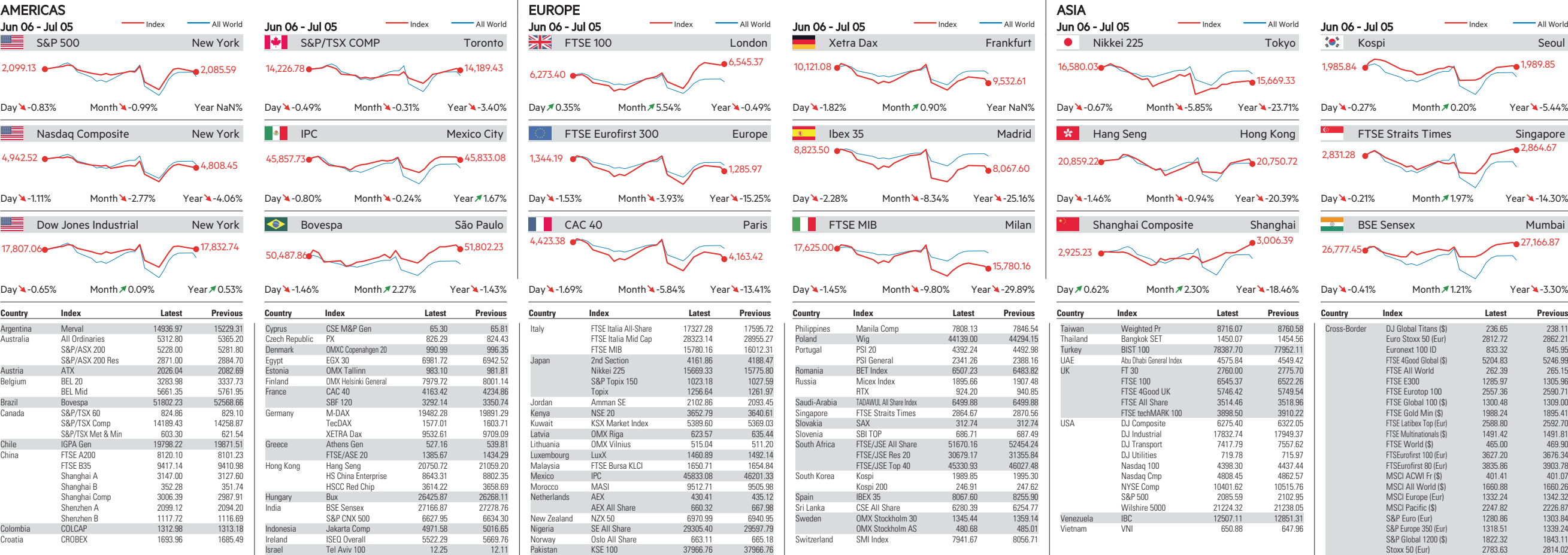
MARKET DATA

WORLD MARKETS AT A GLANCE

Change during previous day's trading (%)



Stock Market movements over last 30 days, with the FTSE All-World in the same currency as a comparison



(c) Closed (U) Unavailable. † Correction. * Subject of official recalculation. For more index coverage please see www.ft.com/worldindices. A fuller version of this table is available on the ft.com research data archive.

STOCK MARKET: BIGGEST MOVERS

AMERICA					LONDON					EURO MARKETS					TOKYO				
ACTIVE STOCKS					ACTIVE STOCKS					ACTIVE STOCKS					ACTIVE STOCKS				
	stock traded m	close price	Day's change	Day's chng%		stock traded m	close price	Day's change	Day's chng%		stock traded m	close price	Day's change	Day's chng%		stock traded m	close price	Day's change	Day's chng%
Hosopia	11.8	89.95	-0.01		Bp	219.5	453.55	-4.20		Blva	552.0	4.98	-0.12		Toyota Motor	482.5	5153.00	26.00	
Amazon	10.9	94.71	-1.18		Apple	147.1	1845.00	2.14		Nestle N	412.5	70.33	0.00		Mitsubishi Ufsi Fin.	285.4	450.00	-5.30	
Facebook	7.3	721.36	-4.32		British American Tobacco	213.8	5035.00	123.15		Alliance Se Vna Dn	334.9	126.15	0.00		Suntomo Mitsui Fin.	290.4	267.50	-42.00	
Bank Of America	6.1	11341.78	-0.38		Hels Holdings	189.4	494.75	1.45		Unicredit	301.4	1.81	0.00		Fast Retailing Co.	246.2	2540.00	-1165.00	
Tesla Motors	6.1	12.69	-0.41		Royal Dutch Shell	173.5	2126.50	61.00		Intesa Sanpaolo	319.3	1.54	0.00		Mizuho Fin.	195.5	147.00	0.60	
J P Morgan Chase & Co	5.9	59.50	-1.76		Lloyds Banking	163.4	51.02	-1.03		Daimler Ag Na O.n.	318.2	54.24	0.00		Softbank.	169.9	5728.00	-64.00	
Tesla Motors	5.8	208.50	8.00		Royal Dutch Shell	163.0	2103.50	52.50		Novartis N	296.3	74.53	0.00		Sony	164.8	3036.00	-2.00	
Netflix	5.7	94.05	-2.62		Sabellier	181.0	4153.00	-10.48		Bnp Paribas Act	284.2	39.12	-0.11		Japan Tobacco	229.8	3277.00	-18.00	
Microsoft	5.1	51.02	-0.55		Vodafone	143.3	229.50	-0.02		Royal Dutch Shell	24.8	0.16			Kddi	156.9	3277.00	-18.00	
Procter & Gamble (the)	5.1	85.80	1.02		Diaggio	137.3	2139.50	41.39		Roche G	242.1	236.40	0.00		Norton Telephn Ad Telephone	146.3	4957.00	-14.00	
BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%		BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%		BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%		BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%	
Ups	92.73	2.08	2.29		Royal Dutch Shell	2126.50	61.00	2.95		Deutsche Wohnen Ag	28.23	1.12	4.15		Teijin	369.9	19.00	5.43	
Extra Space Storage	37.69	2.04	5.42		Acacia Media	467.80	14.00	2.89		Pae Ag	84.3	0.24	2.81		Toyokuma	390.00	10.00	4.58	
Dr Pepper Snapple	258.90	5.06	1.99		Royal Dutch Shell	2103.50	52.50	2.56		Pandora/A S	130.3	3.02	2.37		Funkwaka Electric Co.	245.00	8.00	3.38	
Public Storage	86.82	1.57	1.84		British American Tobacco	5035.00	123.15	2.51		Delhaize Sa	94.30	1.88	2.02		Nissan Chemical Industries	3175.00	100.00	3.25	
Macaccheri (the)	78.07	1.23	1.77		Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2543.00	54.00	2.17		Industriervan Ab	15.04	0.25	1.72		Nec	255.00	8.00	3.24	
Really one																			
Downs	79.98	-22.34	-21.83		Downs	138.50	-22.90	-14.19		Dnfs	14.99	-14.40	-48.99		Sharp	101.00	-6.00	-5.61	
Danaher	47.82	-6.43	-10.88		Virgin Money Holdings (uk)	219.00	-26.60	-13.98		Alps Electric Co.	3.18	-0.29	-9.27		Alps Electric Co.	1840.00	-88.00	-4.58	
Harley-davidson	11.60	-1.42	-12.83		Oreosavings Bank	180.20	-23.60	-11.58		Iberdrola	5.73	-0.38	-6.25		Fast Retailing Co.	2540.00	-1165.00	-4.21	
Southwestern Energy	41.99	-0.41	-0.82		Aldermore	111.40	-11.70	-9.50		Bayerische Motor Werke Ag	64.40	-4.15	-6.05		Mitsubishi Motors	450.00	-19.00	-4.05	
Chesapeake Energy	11.60	-0.48	-7.82		Isotoc	1118.90	-12.38	-9.32		Peugeot	10.62	-0.61	-5.43		Okuma	650.00	-26.00	-3.85	
Range Resources	41.00	-3.48	-7.82		Isotoc	1118.90	-12.38	-9.32		Peugeot	10.62	-0.61	-5.43		Okuma	650.00	-26.00	-3.85	
Based on the constituents of the S&P500 and the Nasdaq 100																			
Based on the constituents of the FTSE 100																			
Based on the constituents of the FTSE Eurofirst 300																			
Based on the constituents of the Nikkei 225 index																			

CURRENCIES

DOLLAR																EURO																POUND																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Jul 5	Currency	Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's		Closing	Day's	

FTSE ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

Produced in conjunction with the Institute for Futures Analysis														
	\$ E/Srg	Jul 5	Day's	of	\$ E/Srg	Jul 5	Day's	of	\$ E/Srg	Jul 5	Day's	of	P/E	X/D
		close	change	Acres		close	change	Acres		close	change	Acres	ratio	Ratio
THE 100 (100)	6545.57	0.25	599.81	14	6522.26	0.00	6526.38	14	7403.28	0.21	701.17	14	5247.71	5247.71
THE 250 (250)	15734.68	-0.37	14411.31	26	15617.10	16465.49	2.91	2.02	1701.21	252.01	1171.25	21		
THE 250 ex Inv Co (209)	16853.88	-0.28	15436.40	17325.57	17278.19	18976.42	2.97	2.16	156.72	23.10	12142.10			
THE 350 ex Inv Co (350)	3573.98	-0.02	3573.50	3677.71	3677.71	3629.82	36.98	0.87	216.13	67.80	5767.33			
THE 350 ex Investment Trusts (393)	3511.60	-0.07	3524.85	3554.22	3591.77	3607.70	3.70	0.87	215.15	73.81	2951.40			
THE 350 ex Lower Yield (225)	3457.27	-0.01	3457.27	3457.27	3457.27	3359.59	51.01	0.42	14.72	94.73	9707.62			
THE 350 ex Lower Yield (225)	3367.90	-0.01	3368.69	3354.44	3438.33	3513.85	21.00	2.15	218.11	40.71	3608.42			
THE SmallCap (281)	4317.78	-1.57	4059.05	4502.58	4518.93	4677.75	3.10	1.42	22.70	69.89	6170.82			
THE SmallCap ex Inv Co (1146)	3864.74	-2.56	3393.69	3966.37	3919.52	4203.01	3.29	1.85	1.64	68.21	6556.82			
THE All-Share (313)	1014.22	-0.13	3218.08	3116.58	3555.45	3573.98	3.66	0.69	30.78	71.82	9785.69			
THE All-Share ex Inv Co (455)	355.18	-0.11	3189.34	3189.34	3189.34	3189.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
THE All-Share ex Multinationals (565)	352.46	-2.01	780.53	1048.28	1048.28	1129.36	3.40	1.42	20.66	17.90	1783.69			
THE Fledgling (1104)	7517.11	-0.32	8884.76	7501.96	7519.45	7300.53	2.85	1.49	23.59	100.50	13726.84			
THE Fledgling ex Inv Co (53)	9570.07	-0.37	8664.78	9765.00	9743.01	10060.63	3.30	1.89	1.66	145.60	17192.13			
THE All-Share Small (365)	7075.55	-1.22	6815.43	3121.99	3121.41	3241.51	1.82	0.62	22.72	88.88	9536.82			
THE All-Share Small ex Inv Co (129)	7480.25	-1.49	6880.29	7285.92	7285.92	7302.02	3.29	1.85	0.89	59.60	5345.82			
THE AIM All-Share Index (828)	705.15	-2.22	6454.34	7136.71	7136.71	7258.61	1.82	0.62	22.72	88.88	9536.82			

MARKET DATA

FT500: THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMPANIES

52 Week										52 Week										52 Week										52 Week									
Stock	Price	Day	Chg	High	Low	Yld	P/E	MCap	Stock	Price	Day	Chg	High	Low	Yld	P/E	MCap	Stock	Price	Day	Chg	High	Low	Yld	P/E	MCap	Stock	Price	Day	Chg	High	Low	Yld	P/E	MCap				
Australia (AS)																																							
ANZ	23.40	-0.35	33.16	21.06	10.33	11.29	50991.42	Nokia	4.81	-0.17	7.11	4.48	2.71	2698	31181.84	Finland (C)											LiLi (E)	79.26	0.31	92.85	67.88	2.30	40.23	87490.12					
BHP	19.45	-0.08	27.46	14.06	10.10	26.81	46656.81	SampoA	36.11	-0.71	67.57	34.42	5.03	13.72	22416.07												Lockheed	249.76	0.41	250.38	181.91	2.29	24.35	76940.16					
CmWbAuu	72.56	-4.82	88.88	69.79	7.11	10.62	92562.06																				Loves	78.94	-0.67	80.90	62.62	1.26	29.58	69894.68					
CSL	111.25	-1.15	117.61	86.51	1.27	31.11	38015.01																				Lyndell	73.44	-1.26	102.03	69.10	3.86	8.47	31336.71					
NatAusXk	24.68	-0.39	34.90	23.82	10.72	11.24	48760.79																				Marathon Pl	37.91	-1.36	60.38	29.24	2.90	11.46	20866.04					
Telstra	5.51	-0.06	6.53	4.98	6.82	18.47	50313.59																				Marsh&M	67.66	-0.45	69.89	50.01	2.04	28.94	35626.63					
Westfarms	39.75	-0.52	44.12	36.65	6.20	21.06	33433.95																				MasterCard	88.68	-0.17	101.76	74.61	0.72	29.42	95626.05					
Westpac	28.54	-0.44	35.15	27.57	8.42	13.71	117.06.98																				McDonald's	120.48	0.08	131.96	87.50	2.62	25.57	105764.28					
Woolworths	20.62	-0.20	29.22	20.30	6.30	6.20	391.23	13954.23																			McKesson	186.90	-1.21	236.86	148.29	0.52	20.92	421.81.04					
																											Medtronic	87.25	0.22	87.89	55.54	1.55	39.50	121690.36					
Belgium (E)																																							
AntibNih&I	115.85	-0.14	124.20	87.73	2.69	29.31	206977.4																				Merck	55.15	0.21	60.07	45.69	2.84	39.30	169690.67					
KBC Grp	41.50	-0.73	66.00	39.96	4.48	12.66	19274.82																				MetLife	37.3	-1.76	58.13	35.00	3.61	8.88	41452.69					
																											Microsoft	51.02	-1.15	56.85	39.72	2.38	42.00	100170.12					
Brazil (RS)																																							
Ambiev	19.07	0.01	20.46	15.99	2.34	29.37	91035.64																				MinistBrg	161.47	1.74	181.98	113.08	50.59	33470.05						
Bradesco	26.89	-0.29	32.00	16.67	3.26	10.52	22678.27																				Mundelein	45.33	-0.22	46.58	35.98	1.32	10.86	70354.91					
Cielo	33.47	-0.33	38.56	23.36	11.9	24.92	20014.69																				Monsanto	106.08	-0.64	114.26	71.82	1.92	34.14	44095.06					
HitdaHFin	26.30	-0.28	33.78	24.99	2.34	7.25	24339.3																				MorganStall	25.03	-0.89	41.04	21.16	2.18	12.08	49483.72					
Petrobras	11.36	-0.66	13.97	5.67	-	-	469.2587.56																				MyknyHv	42.45	-0.03	73.91	27.59	-	29.85	21580.21					
Vale	16.26	-0.71	22.19	8.80	5.52	-3.88	15888.08																				Netflix	94.05	-2.62	133.27	79.95	3.68	40.33	22.12					
																											NorwEnrE	130.81	1.08	131.33	93.74	2.21	24.08	60399.67					
Canada (CS)																																							
BCE	61.85	0.65	61.93	51.56	3.97	21.51	41506.6																				Nike	55.47	-0.14	68.20	47.25	0.71	24.73	73956.64					
BKMontr	82.12	-0.42	84.55	64.01	3.72	13.41	40552.8																				NorfolkS	83.71	-1.50	98.75	64.51	2.56	17.11	24754.73					
BKvAas	63.42	-0.27	67.40	51.17	40.12	12.88	58896.45																				Northrop	221.50	0.30	223.42	152.31	3.1	12.17	3993.98					
Brockfield	43.55	-0.01	46.52	37.11	1.22	21.04	33186.5																				NPP	78.15	-1.82	100.26	61.81	14.53	2334.12						
BroEnerg	168.98	-2.12	212.06	140.02	0.75	16.67	191716.88																				Oracle	40.31	-0.67	43.81	38.22	3.63	-7.63	52724.43					
Canimp	96.23	-0.84	104.69	82.56	4.35	11.45	232424.14																				Oceano	75.02	-0.54	42.00	33.13	1.33	21.76	162828.47					
CanNatIs	39.80	-0.35	40.59	21.27	21.70	97.28	33740.33																				Papico	52.18	-0.15	128.42	86.85	0.45	109.34	13029.84					
CanNatly	76.72	-0.94	83.81	66.62	1.56	18.63	46027.46																				Paycom	35.85	0.28	36.46	28.25	2.98	33.27	217424.95					
Enbridge	54.97	-0.53	59.76	40.03	3.18	33.93	60227.46																				Philips66	77.77	-2.01	94.12	69.79	2.51	12.86	40847.47					
Imperial	34.09	-0.25	37.50	30.42	3.33	13.93	26179.36																				PlumMoria	102.86	-1.58	102.91	76.54	2.68	18.66	159563.05					
Manulife	41.12	-0.29	46.40	37.25	0.79	64.12	26905.41																				PNCFin	71.22	-1.72	102.52	77.40	2.34	11.92	39352.65					
Potash	21.08	-0.72	39.45	20.03	8.48	15.40	13680.06																				PPSInd	102.29	-2.13	118.27	82.59	1.29	41.26	27242.23					
RYBK&K	76.91	-0.28	80.97	64.52	3.78	12.56	88364.94																				Praxair	119.64	-1.75	120.04	95.80	2.35	23.83	31946.37					
ScorEn	36.08	-0.43	55.52	47.56	2.99	29.43	30878.46																				Priceline	125.48	-8.88	147.52	95.402	-	-	27.28	62470.66				
TntoDom	55.78	-0.35	58.13	47.75	3.43	13.79	79262.81																				Procter&G	85.80	-0.12	85.95	65.02	2.81	29.81	228386.89					
TntoCan	59.51	0.54	59.57	40.48	-3.24	33.74	62870.04																				Qantas	68.52	-2.48	92.80	57.19	3.38	6.99	30265.84					
ValeantPh	25.95	-0.75	34.74	24.32	-	-	3941.73																				RealStar	59.68	-1.86	72.90	63.53	0.98	25.13	50434.36					
																											Qualcomm	58.14	-0.47	66.05	42.24	3.34	18.16	76581.89					
China (HK)																																							
Agri&GmC	2.82	-0.05	3.96	2.50	7.14	4.80	11172.33																				Raytheon	136.49	-1.67	137.34	95.52	1.82	23.50	4053.84					
BK China	3.08	-0.06	5.08	2.83	6.82	5.14	33195.53																				Regen Pharm	37.57	-1.35	60.53	32.09	-	62.42	39845.54					
BKComCh	4.89	-0.07	8.13	4.24	6.99	4.98	22666.58																				Reynolds&K	51.44	-0.37	63.31	49.49	1.29	23.64	81699.77					
BOE Tech	1.81	0.06	3.31	1.55	0.91	34.78	44.61																				S&P Global	116.07	1.69	127.12	79.55	1.15	77.78	26113.82					
ChZens Cos	3.26	-0.05	5.18	2.76	1.82	47.71	38.16																				Salesforce	78.75	-1.08	84.48	52.80	-	4421.54	53533.13					
Ch Everlit	3.26	-0.07	4.63	3.07	6.31	4.75	2886.04																				Schmring	72.70	-2.32	86.59	69.56	2.35	36.66	86690.2					
Ch Everlit	3.26	-0.07	4.63	3.07	6.31	4.75	2886.04																				Schmring	72.70	-2.32	86.59	69.56	2.35	36.66	86690.2					
Ch Everlit	3.26	-0.07	4.63	3.07	6.31	4.75	2886.04																				Schmring	72.70	-2.32	86.59	69.56	2.35	36.66	86690.2					
Ch Everlit	3.26	-0.07	4.63	3.07	6.31	4.75	2886.04																				Schmring	72.70	-2.32	86.59	69.56	2.35	36.66	86690.2					
Ch Everlit	3.26	-0.07	4.63	3.07	6.31	4.75	2886.04																				Schmring	72.70	-2.32	86.59	69.56	2.35	36.66	86690.2					

.....

The image is a promotional graphic for Dragon Capital. The left side features the company's logo, which consists of the words "DRAGON CAPITAL" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized black dragon icon. Below the logo, the website "www.dragoncapital.com" and the email address "info@dragoncapital.com" are listed. The right side of the image is dominated by a large, detailed photograph of a dragon, likely a Vietnamese dragon, with its head and front legs visible. The dragon is rendered in a dark, textured style, possibly a sculpture or a painting. The background of the entire image is a light, neutral color.

MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE



New Capital Fund Management Ltd (IRL)
Leconfield House, Curzon Street, London, W1J 5JB
FCA Recognised

New Capital UCITS Funds

Asia Pac Bd USD Inst Inc	\$	94.86	-	0.17	3.24
Asia Pac Bd USD Ord Inc	\$	96.96	-	0.17	2.55
Asia Pac Eq EUR Ord Inc	€	85.42	-	0.93	3.17
Asia Pac Eq GBP Ord Inc	€	88.38	-	0.97	3.70
Asia Pac Eq USD Ord Inc	\$	89.94	-	0.98	3.14
Asia Pac Eq USD Inst Acc	\$	98.79	-	1.08	0.00
Asia Pac Eq USD Inst Inc	\$	100.24	-	1.09	3.81
Dyn Europ Eq EUR Ord Inc	€	161.99	-	-1.45	0.73
Dyn Europ Eq GBP Ord Inc	€	170.27	-	-1.52	1.11
Dyn Europ Eq USD Ord Inc	\$	162.51	-	-1.47	0.72
China Equity EUR Ord Acc	€	116.02	-	1.68	0.00
China Equity GBP Ord Acc	€	121.13	-	1.76	0.00
China Equity USD Ord Acc	\$	118.82	-	1.73	0.00
China Equity USD Inst Acc	\$	122.72	-	1.79	0.00
Europ. Equity Fd EUR	€	97.92	-	-0.88	-
Europ. Equity Fd GBP	€	95.78	-	-0.86	-
Europ. Equity Fd USD	\$	97.17	-	-0.87	-
Global Val.Gr.Fd GBP Ord Inc	€	111.21	-	0.25	3.52
Global Val.Gr.Fd USD Inst Acc	\$	127.72	-	0.29	0.00
Global Val.Gr.Fd GBP Ord Acc	€	183.63	-	0.40	0.00
Global Val.Gr.Fd USD Ord Acc	\$	172.41	-	0.39	0.00
Global Val.Gr.Fd EUR Ord Acc	€	159.50	-	0.34	0.00
Swiss Select Equity Inst Acc	Sfr	115.36	-	-0.92	0.00
Swiss Select Equity Ord Acc	Sfr	113.64	-	-0.91	0.00
US Growth USD Ord Acc	\$	194.58	-	-0.03	0.00
US Growth EUR Ord Acc	€	184.79	-	-0.03	0.00
US Growth GBP Ord Acc	€	194.45	-	-0.02	0.00
US Growth USD Inst Acc	\$	180.49	-	-0.02	0.00
Wealthy Nat Bd EUR Inst Inc	€	113.02	-	0.27	3.52
Wealthy Nat Bd GBP Inst Inc	€	117.85	-	0.29	3.47
Wealthy Nat Bd EUR Ord Inc	€	112.35	-	0.27	3.27
Wealthy Nat Bd GBP Ord Inc	€	118.67	-	0.28	3.21
Wealthy Nat Bd USD Ord Inc	\$	115.96	-	0.28	3.19
All Weather Fd USD CIs	\$	115.30	-	0.77	0.00
All Weather Fd EUR CIs	€	103.19	-	0.72	0.00
All Weather Fd GBP CIs	€	111.28	-	0.83	0.00
Tactical Opps USD CIs	\$	122.63	-	-3.68	0.00
Tactical Opps EUR CIs	€	102.52	-	-3.11	0.00
Tactical Opps GBP CIs	€	114.71	-	-3.43	0.00




Northwest Investment Management (HK) Ltd
11th Floor, Kinwick Centre, 32, Hollywood Road, Central Hong Kong +852 3884 4373
Other International Funds

Northwest S class	\$	2238.86	-	-41.88	0.00
-------------------	----	---------	---	--------	------




Oasis Crescent Management Company Ltd
Other International Funds

Oasis Crescent Equity Fund	R	10.24	-	-0.03	0.00
----------------------------	---	-------	---	-------	------




Odey Asset Management LLP (CYM)
FCA Recognised

OEI Mac Inc GBP A	£	271.38	-	24.45	0.00
OEI Mac Inc GBP B	£	155.60	-	16.72	0.00
OEI MAC Inc USD	\$	1436.61	-	126.78	0.00
Odey European Inc EUR	€	638.09	-	61.79	0.00
Odey European Inc GBP A	£	249.15	-	25.02	0.00
Odey European Inc GBP B	£	141.34	-	14.14	0.00
Odey European Inc USD	\$	296.66	-	29.14	0.00
Giano Capital EUR Inc	€	4459.07	-	45.64	0.00




Odey Asset Management LLP (IRL)
FCA Recognised

Odey Pain European EUR R	€	284.82	-	-1.81	0.00
--------------------------	---	--------	---	-------	------




Odey Wealth Management (CI) Ltd (IRL)
www.odey.com/pnscs
FCA Recognised

Odey Opportunity EUR I	€	213.02	-	-0.15	0.00
------------------------	---	--------	---	-------	------



Permal Investment Mgmt Svcs Ltd
www.permal.com
Other International Funds

Offshore Fund Class A US S Shares					
Investment Holdings N.V.	\$	954.96	-	17.32	0.00
Emerging Local Bond - Inst Acc	€	409.60	-	-48.44	0.00
Macro Holdings Ltd	\$	239.26	-	2.85	-
Fixed Income Holdings N.V.	\$	153.10	-	-0.04	0.00



Pictet Asset Management (Europe) SA (LUX)
15, Avenue J.F. Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 58 323 3000
FCA Recognised

Pictet-Abisi Rtn Fx Inc-HI EUR	€	107.82	-	0.30	0.00
Pictet-Agriculture-I EUR F	€	184.68	-	0.86	0.00
Pictet-Asian Equities Ex Japan I USD F	\$	206.61	-	-2.06	0.00
Pictet-Asian Local Currency Debt I USD F	\$	162.13	-	-0.87	0.00
Pictet-Biotech-I USD F	\$	651.60	-	11.93	0.00
Pictet-CHF Bonds I CHF	Sfr	514.90	-	0.15	0.00
Pictet-China Index-I USD	\$	100.30	-	0.85	0.00
Pictet-Clean Energy-I USD F	\$	76.40	-	0.36	0.00
Pictet-Digital Communication-I USD F	\$	271.21	-	2.23	0.00
Pictet-Em Lat Coy Deb-I USD F	\$	171.92	-	0.47	0.00
Pictet-Emerging Europe-I EUR F	€	285.71	-	0.22	0.00
Pictet-Emerging Markets Index-I USD F	\$	221.42	-	2.43	0.00
Pictet-Emerging Corporate Bonds I USD	\$	114.78	-	0.43	0.00
Pictet-Emerging Markets High Dividend I USD	\$	96.75	-	-0.72	0.00
Pictet-Emerging Markets Sust Eq I USD	\$	88.86	-	0.63	0.00
Pictet-EUR Bonds-I F	€	587.61	-	-0.43	0.00
Pictet-EUR Corporate Bonds Ex Fxi I EUR	€	150.59	-	0.76	0.00
Pictet-EUR Corporate Bonds-I F	€	207.26	-	-0.21	0.00
Pictet-EUR Government Bonds-I EUR	€	167.13	-	-0.06	0.00
Pictet-EUR High Yield-I F	€	247.47	-	0.50	0.00
Pictet-EUR Short Mid-Term Bonds-I F	€	137.44	-	0.05	0.00
Pictet-EUR Short Term HY I EUR	€	122.76	-	0.08	0.00
OEI Eur Sov Sht.Mon.Mkt EUR I	€	102.72	-	-0.01	0.00
Pictet-Euroland Index IS EUR	€	120.10	-	-0.95	0.00
Pictet-Europe Index-I EUR F	€	157.56	-	-1.08	0.00
Pictet-European Equity Selection-I EUR F	€	577.66	-	-5.05	0.00
Pictet-European Sust Eq-I EUR F	€	232.42	-	-1.69	0.00
Pictet-Global Bds Fundamental I USD	\$	126.79	-	0.34	0.00
Pictet-Global Bonds-I EUR	€	179.88	-	0.15	0.00
Pictet-Global Emerging Currencies-I USD F	\$	101.24	-	0.16	0.00
Pictet-Global Emerging Debt-I USD F	\$	390.90	-	3.81	0.00
Pictet-Global Env Opport-I EUR	€	161.77	-	0.01	0.00
Pictet-Global Megatrend Selection-I USD F	\$	221.46	-	1.40	0.00




Pimco Fds: Global Investors Series Plc (IRL)
PIMCO Europe Ltd, 1 Baker Street, London W1U 5AH
http://giano.pimco-funds.com/
Dealing: +44 20 3640 1000
PIMCO Funds: +44 (0)20 3640 1407
FCA Recognised

Capital Securities Inst Acc	\$	14.91	-	0.03	0.00
Commodity Real Return Fund Inst Acc	\$	6.66	-	0.08	0.00
Credit Absolute Return Fund Inst Acc	\$	11.20	-	0.03	0.00
Diversified Income - Inst Acc	\$	20.77	-	0.12	0.00
Diversified Income Dist Hgf Fund Inst Acc	\$	11.58	-	0.06	0.00
Emerging Asia Bond Fund Inst Acc	\$	10.38	-	0.05	0.00
Emerging Local Bond - Inst Acc	\$	11.99	-	0.04	0.00
Emerging Markets Bond - Inst Acc	\$	42.04	-	0.30	0.00
Emerging Markets Corp Bd Fund Inst Acc F	\$	13.50	-	0.05	0.00
Emerging Markets Short-Term Local Currency Fund	\$	12.41	-	0.03	0.00
Euro Bond - Inst Acc	€	23.68	-	0.00	0.00
Euro Credit - Inst Acc	€	15.38	-	0.02	0.00
Euro Income Bond - Inst Acc F	€	13.43	-	0.02	0.00
Euro Long Average Duration - Inst Acc	€	25.66	-	-0.06	0.00
Euro Low Duration Fund Inst Acc	€	11.34	-	0.00	0.00
Euro Real Return - Inst Acc	€	13.85	-	-0.03	0.00
Euro Short-Term Inst Acc	€	12.25	-	0.00	0.00
Euro Ultra Long Duration - Inst Acc	€	34.83	-	0.18	0.00
Global Advantage - Inst Acc	€	12.82	-	0.06	0.00
Global Advantage Real Return Fund Inst Acc	€	8.97	-	0.06	0.00
Global Bond - Inst Acc	€	29.43	-	0.11	0.00
Global Bond Ex-US - Inst Acc	€	20.80	-	0.08	0.00
Global High Yield Bond - Inst Acc	€	20.83	-	0.11	0.00
Global Investment Grade Credit - Inst Income	€	12.52	-	0.05	3.93
Global Investment Grade Credit Fund Inst Acc F	€	12.25	-	0.03	0.00
Global Investment Grade Credit Fund Inst Acc F	€	17.65	-	0.07	0.00
Global Multi-Asset - Inst Acc	€	14.38	-	0.07	0.00
Global Real Return - Inst Acc	€	19.28	-	0.09	0.00
Income Fund Inst Acc	€	12.79	-	0.03	0.00
Inflation Strategy Fund Inst Acc	€	9.43	-	0.06	0.00
Low Average Duration - Inst Acc	€	15.00	-	0.01	0.00
PIMCO RAE Fund PLUS Em Mkts Inst Acc	\$	9.20	-	0.08	0.00
PIMCO RAE Fund PLUS GI Dev Inst Acc	\$	10.96	-	0.06	0.00
PIMCO RAE Fund PLUS US Inst Acc	\$	12.80	-	0.05	0.00
Socially Resp.Emerg Mkts Bd Fd Inst Acc F	\$	13.84	-	0.09	0.00
StocksPLUS(TM) - Inst Acc	\$	24.00	-	0.07	0.00
Total Return Bond - Inst Acc	€	28.30	-	0.12	0.00
UK Corporate Bond - Inst Acc	€	18.59	-	0.07	0.00
UK Long Term Corp. Bd Inst Inst Acc	€	21.38	-	0.13	0.00
UK Low Duration - Inst Acc	€	14.28	-	0.00	0.00
UK Real Return - Inst Acc	€	22.94	-	-0.04	0.00
UK Sterling Long Average Duration - Inst Acc	€	23.19	-	0.00	0.00
Unconstrained Bond - Inst Acc	€	12.03	-	0.02	0.00
US High Yield Bond Fund Inst Acc	€	28.97	-	0.14	0.00




Robeco Asset Management
Weinlaan 150, 3014 DA Rotterdam, The Netherlands
www.robeco.com/contact
FCA Recognised

Asia-Pacific Equities (EUR)	€	127.37	-	-0.90	0.00
Chinese Equities (EUR)	€	69.68	-	-0.73	0.00
Em Stars Equities (EUR)	€	168.86	-	-1.64	0.00
Emerging Markets Equities (EUR)	€	144.57	-	-1.03	0.00
Flex-e-Rente (EUR)	€	109.39	-	0.00	0.00
Global Consumer Trends Equities (EUR)	€	147.78	-	0.74	0.00
High Yield Bonds (EUR)	€	132.92	-	0.55	0.00
Lux -O- Rente (EUR)	€	150.25	-	0.01	0.00
New World Financials (EUR)	€	45.70	-	-0.32	0.00
US Premium Equities (EUR)	€	182.09	-	0.32	0.00
US Premium Equities (USD)	\$	204.59	-	0.39	0.00




Platinum Capital Management Ltd
Other International Funds

Platinum All Star Fund - A	€	115.76	-	-	-
Platinum Global Dividend Fund - A	\$	49.35	-	-	-
Platinum Merckid Enhanced Fund Limited	\$	92.74	-	-	0.00




Polar Capital Funds Plc (IRL)
Regulated

Asian Financials I USD	\$	295.42	295.42	-1.68	1.12
Biotechnology I USD	\$	15.50	15.50	0.26	0.00
European Income Acc EUR	€	10.77	10.77	-0.08	0.00
European Ex UK Inc EUR Acc	€	9.38	9.38	-0.06	0.00
Financial Opps I USD	\$	10.30	-	-0.02	2.12
GEM Growth I USD	\$	8.85	-	0.05	0.00
GEM Income I USD	\$	9.79	-	0.04	0.00
Global Alpha I USD	\$	12.71	12.71	0.03	0.00
Global Convertible I USD	\$	11.30	11.30	0.01	0.00
Global Insurance I GBP	£	4.78	-	0.02	0.00
Global Technology I USD	\$	24.00	-	0.06	0.00
Healthcare Blue Chip Fund I USD Acc	\$	10.67	10.67	0.05	0.00
Healthcare Opps I USD	\$	35.80	-	0.27	0.00
Income Opportunities 92 I GBP Acc	£	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00
Japan Alpha I JPY	¥	152.83	152.83	-1.29	0.00
Japan J JPY	¥	1515.74	-	-15.06	1.35
North American I USD	\$	17.56	17.56	-0.01	0.00
UK Absolute Equity I GBP	£	13.93	13.93	0.21	0.00




Private Fund Mgrs (Guernsey) Ltd (GSY)
Regulated

Monument Growth 28/06/2016	£	457.52	462.39	-22.43	1.32
----------------------------	---	--------	--------	--------	------




Prusik Investment Management LLP (IRL)
Enquiries - 0207 493 1331
Regulated

Prusik Asian Equity Income B Dist	£	162.05	-	-1.52	3.89
Prusik Asia A	£	193.43	-	-0.78	0.00
Prusik Asian Smaller Cos A	£	151.67	-	-0.23	0.00




Purisma Investment Fds (CI) Ltd (JER)
Regulated

PCG B #	£	162.32	-	-0.77	0.00
PCG C #	£	159.91	-	-0.76	0.00




Putnam Investments (Ireland) Ltd (IRL)
Regulated

Putnam New Flag Euro High Yield Plc - E	£	1007.76	-	2.20	4.04
---	---	---------	---	------	------



Ram Active Investments SA
Tel: +41 22 816 67 30
www.ram-ai.com
Other International Funds

RAM Systematic Europe Markets Core Eq	\$	82.59	-	0.69	-
RAM Systematic Europe Markets Eq	\$	150.26	-	1.07	-
RAM Systematic European Eq	\$	362.52	-	-3.18	-
RAM Systematic Global Shareholder Yield Eq	\$	100.10	-	-0.12	0.00
RAM Systematic Long-Short Europe Markets Eq	\$	119.49	-	0.16	-
RAM Systematic Long/Short European Eq	\$	143.39	-	0.17	-
RAM Systematic North American Eq	\$	242.16	-	0.66	-
RAM Tactical Convertibles Europe	€	139.40	-	-0.30	-
RAM Tactical Global Bond Total Return	€	143.68	-	0.14	-
RAM Tactical II Asia Bond Total Return	€	133.17	-	0.34	-



Robeco Asset Management
Weinlaan 150, 3014 DA Rotterdam, The Netherlands
www.robeco.com/contact
FCA Recognised

Asia-Pacific Equities (EUR)	€	127.37	-	-0.90	0.00
Chinese Equities (EUR)	€	69.68	-	-0.73	0.00
Em Stars Equities (EUR)	€	168.86	-	-1.64	0.00
Emerging Markets Equities (EUR)	€	144.57	-	-1.03	0.00
Flex-e-Rente (EUR)	€	109.39	-	0.00	0.00
Global Consumer Trends Equities (EUR)	€	147.78	-	0.74	0.00
High Yield Bonds (EUR)	€	132.92	-	0.55	0.00
Lux -O- Rente (EUR)	€	150.25	-	0.01	0.00
New World Financials (EUR)	€	45.70	-	-0.32	0.00
US Premium Equities (EUR)	€	182.09	-	0.32	0.00
US Premium Equities (USD)	\$	204.59	-	0.39	0.00

MARKETS & INVESTING

FT explainer

Three-decade bond rally has further to run after EU vote

One major consequence of Brexit has been a surge in demand for top-tier government bonds, further distorting this bedrock of global fixed income and clouding the valuation of equities, **writes Michael Mackenzie.**

Many have called time on the three-decade-and-counting rally in top-tier sovereign bonds, only to suffer from being far too early. Thanks to Brexit, this bond market rally appears very much intact — and moreover, the era of ultra-low and negative bond yields may only be in its early stages.

Where are key bond benchmarks currently?
Starting with the global benchmark: the US 10-year Treasury note yield has fallen below 1.36 per cent, entering uncharted territory. Back in January, many analysts predicted a yield of 3 per cent by the end of the year as a strengthening US economy was seen clearing the way for the Federal Reserve to lift overnight borrowing rates beyond 1 per cent. Now, the bond market expects no tightening of US policy this year, and in a world of \$12tn in negative-yielding debt, the Treasury market stands out as a high yielder.

Being a global high yielder was a trait shared by the UK's gilt market, but that status is slipping fast. Last week, a couple of short-dated gilts briefly turned negative, while the yield on 10-year benchmark paper has fallen to a record low under 0.77 per cent. Before Brexit, the 10-year gilt yielded 1.38 per cent, representing a powerful appreciation in price terms for holders of the paper. For foreign holders, who have not hedged for currency risk, the picture is less appealing given the slide in the pound.

The 10-year Treasury yield has dropped from 1.75 per cent since Brexit and it began the year at 2.30 per cent. The Barclays 10-year Treasury index has generated a total return of 7.8 per cent so far this year, ahead of the S&P 500's total return of 4.1 per cent.

In the growing world of negative-yielding paper, Swiss government bond yields all the way out to 50-year maturities are now below zero. Germany, France,

Switzerland and Australia registered new all-time lows in yield for their 10-year benchmarks on Tuesday.

What are low bond yields telling us?

The investor mood in the wake of Brexit has accelerated this year's stellar bond rally, with yields falling to fresh lows as prices rise, particularly for long-dated paper.

Bond investors are painting a grim picture of the post-Brexit world — weaker growth and further central bank easing, starting with the Bank of England later this month. Further easing from the Bank of Japan and the European Central Bank also looms, only exacerbating the downward pressure on yields and encouraging more investors to seek higher-yielding US paper.

With the US Federal Reserve on the policy sidelines until the Brexit shockwaves ebb, there is also a narrowing between short and long-dated bond yields. This flattening of the yield curve usually signals turmoil ahead. Not since November of 2007 has the difference between US two-year and 10-year yields been so flat, at about 0.80 percentage points.

What is the message for equities?

After the Brexit shock sent share prices tumbling, buyers of equities went bargain hunting and have booked a nice trade. Bond yields continued to send a warning to equity investors betting on firmer global growth later this year.

From a dividend perspective, shares look attractive when compared to ever-lower bond yields. The FTSE All World index for example pays out a dividend of 2.75 per cent, well above yields for top-tier bonds.

The message of lower yields suggests the squeeze on corporate profits will not end soon. While FTSE 100 global companies reliant on dollar revenues are set to enjoy a currency tailwind thanks to a much weaker pound, top-line growth remains elusive for many blue-chips.

S&P 500 earnings for the second quarter are forecast to fall for the same period a year ago, marking four straight quarters of weaker profit growth.



Capital markets

Yield of post-Brexit gilts hits record low

Bond rate of 0.38% reflects strong demand for first sovereign sale since vote

ELAINE MOORE AND DAN MCCRUM

As yields for global benchmark bonds hit record lows, Britain yesterday held its first gilts sale since voting to leave the EU, issuing £2.5bn of debt and attracting robust demand from investors.

Bids exceeded the amount on sale by 1.8 times according to Reuters data, enabling the five-year bond to be sold at a record low yield of 0.38 per cent, even as sterling fell to a fresh post-Brexit low against the US dollar.

The auction ended one of the longest suspensions of gilt sales since the financial crisis, exceeding annual Christmas breaks and the 2015 election hiatus.

Reflecting the financial market's uncertainty around the referendum, the UK Debt Management Office will reintroduce gilts slowly after its near month-long pause, starting with the sort of conventional vanilla bonds that are popular with a broad range of investors.

The sale of 2021 debt was also extended by an hour to take into account the fact that it coincided with publication of the Bank of England's twice-yearly risk assessment report, which outlined what action the BoE would take to address risks created by Brexit.

The sale came as bond yields fell across Europe, and the yield on 10-year Treasuries traded below the previous record low of 1.38 set in 2012, as a fresh bout of post-Brexit nerves pushed up prices for so-called safe assets.

As the coupon on government bonds is set at issue, rising prices lower yields.

Ten-year gilts, which started the year trading at interest rates of 1.96 per cent, fell to 0.78 per cent yesterday.

It comes after rates on two short-dated gilts traded briefly below zero for the first time last week.

Although low yields benefit the UK by reducing debt-servicing costs, the DMO said it had no intention of opportunistically selling more debt to take advantage of the rates.

Instead, it aims to sell bonds in the most liquid market possible — always avoiding sales on Mondays and Fridays — via a regular, reliable schedule.

“There is liquidity in gilt markets,” said Luke Hickmore at Aberdeen Asset Management. “But the vote did have an impact.”

Trading activity in gilt markets measured by Trax, a MarketAxess subsidiary, dipped to £9.6bn on the day of the

£2.5_{bn}
Size of the UK government's first gilt issue since the EU referendum

0.78%
Yesterday's yield on 10-year gilts, which started 2016 trading at 1.96%

referendum, half the amount of the previous Friday.

The DMO, concerned by market liquidity, revised its issuance procedure earlier this year following an auction of 5-year gilts in January, which attracted the lowest bid-to-cover ratio on record of just 1.07 times.

Since the changes were introduced in April, demand at auction has increased sharply — pushing bid-to-cover ratios up. However, the previous sale of debt before the EU referendum — a £900m issue of 20-year index-linked gilts — attracted mediocre demand, with bids 1.75 times the amount sold.

Ahead of Britain's EU referendum, there were questions about how the gilt market would react to a Leave vote. In the event, the threat of a negative economic shock sparked a rush to gilts, pushing yields to record lows.

Analysis. Trading room

Battle over price of finance data heats up

Large fee rises are leading to bitter clashes between brokers and exchanges

ROBIN WIGGLESWORTH, NICOLE BULLOCK AND GREGORY MEYER

Information has become one of the biggest battlegrounds of the US finance industry, pitting banks, brokerages and trading firms against the exchanges that control financial market data flows.

Banks are desperate to lower costs after the financial crisis, while exchanges need to find ways to boost revenues given a drop in commissions and trading volumes in the past decade.

“There's a great deal of angst about this,” says Eric Noll, chief executive of Convergenx, a brokerage. “It's manageable now, but the trend is disturbing. It's moved from a back-of-the-head issue to the forefront.”

Tabb Group, a consultancy, estimates that while trading volumes, market-making profits, brokerage revenues and institutional trading commissions have all declined, the revenues of US exchanges have climbed 16 per cent over the past five years — largely thanks to rocketing data revenue. Revenues from “exchange data, access and technology” are up 62 per cent in that time.

Some of that is due to acquisitions but the shift is still stark, says chief executive Larry Tabb. “The large fee increases that are buttressing data, technology and access revenue growth at exchanges have led to a death match between brokers and exchanges,” he wrote in a note.

In spite of a chorus of complaints, the exchanges have reason to feel vindicated. The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association last month lost a drawn-out lawsuit against them over the rising cost of data, even if the US finance industry's lobbying group is expected to appeal.

Still, a new front in the industry battle has opened, with two Congressmen preparing to sponsor a bipartisan bill that would give broker-dealers a direct say on the “securities information processor” (SIP) the main feed of market data that is now controlled by exchanges.

“This bill will simply allow the broker-dealers, the exchanges' customers, to have a voice,” Brad Sherman, a Democratic Congressman from California and one of the legislation's co-sponsors, says in an emailed statement to the FT. “Public utilities should always consider the views of its customers.”

Because exchanges also sell rival data



Critics say exchanges have a data monopoly, with traders having little choice but to buy faster feeds despite rising costs
Richard Drew/AP

feeds that are faster and more efficient, critics argue they have starved the SIP of investment. Also, the SIP is slow compared with direct feeds and most brokers feel compelled to pay for an exchange's expensive pipelines.

Critics say it amounts to a data monopoly, as each broker, trading firm and asset manager has little choice but to buy the quicker data feeds from each of the big exchanges. “Our market data bills are astronomical, and they're growing hugely every year,” says one senior Wall Street banker. Another senior banking executive says: “Market data and connectivity is still a monopoly, and they're exploiting that. There's no way to control this cost escalation.”

Supporters of the bill argue it will encourage more investment in the system, making it a more viable alternative to the pricey direct feeds.

The New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq point to the Sifma case, stressing that a Securities and Exchange Com-

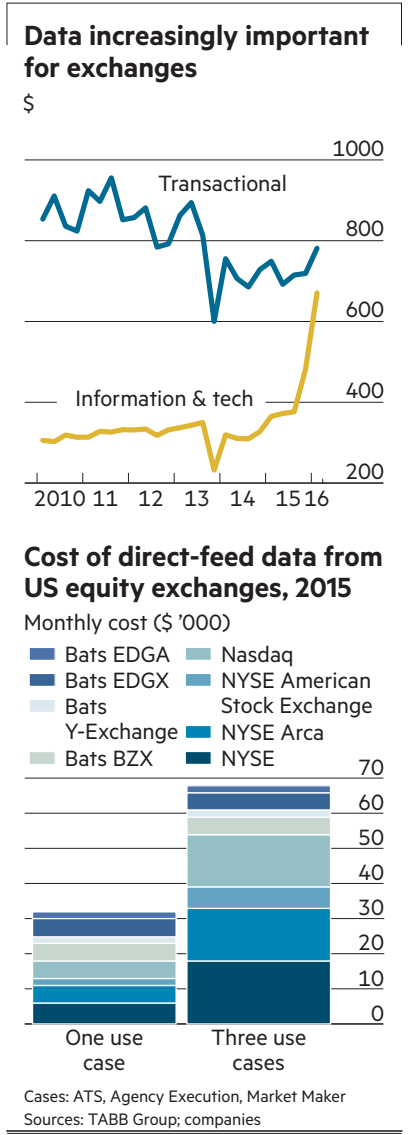
mission judge found that market data sales were subject to competitive forces.

Nasdaq also points to investments made in the SIP in recent years that will dramatically increase its speed from about 225 milliseconds a decade ago to 500 microseconds today, and soon to 50 microseconds.

Nasdaq also argues brokers already get a say in any decisions regarding the SIP through various meetings and the SEC's public comment process.

Bats Global Markets, whose shareholders include banks, supports giving both sellside and buy-side representatives a vote on the SIP operating committee and market plans generally. It also says it charges far less for data than its competitors.

IEX, which recently won approval to be an exchange, also argues for both brokers and investors having representation on the SIP committee. It has also complained that market data costs are too high and for now is not charging for



its feed for lit trading. “We don't project that at any point our revenue will depend on market data,” says John Ramsay at IEX.

But it is an increasingly important business for some. At Intercontinental Exchange, which owns NYSE, data and connectivity sales were \$477m, or 41 per cent, of revenues in the first quarter. Adjusting for its recent \$5.2bn purchase of Interactive Data Corp, that was up 6 per cent in the year, and pure data sales gained 9 per cent annually.

CME Group, which owns the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, intends doubling data fees for customers who previously had waivers to \$85 per month per screen. But on its first-quarter earnings call, an executive warned the number of screens had declined as banks cut staff.

Jonny Aucamp of OSTC, a UK-based proprietary trading group, says: “We are seeing traders leaving the market as a result of increased costs, one of which is data fees.”

Commodities

Oil tie-up raises hopes of Libyan stability

ANJLI RAVAL
OIL & GAS CORRESPONDENT

A top Libyan oil official has said an agreement to unify the energy sector could pave the way for reconciliation between rival governments and higher crude production in the north African nation.

A deal was reached on Saturday to merge the competing national oil companies (NOC) in western and eastern Libya, which have been in a power struggle over oil revenues.

Mustafa Sanalla, head of the Tripoli-based NOC, told the Financial Times after the announcement the decision removed an important hurdle to the unification of the country.

“This will help the broader political climate. I urge all other political institutions to do the same,” said Mr Sanalla,

who will remain chairman of the company.

Libya has been split between two governments since 2014, with rival parliaments located in Tripoli and Tubruq.

Both still have to approve the agreement and despite the optimism, many hurdles remain, said Mattia Toaldo, senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

“The deal was a good symbolic act, but there is still a long way to go before a rapprochement between both sides of the government,” said Mr Toaldo.

A new UN-brokered unity government has sought to unite Libya's many political and armed factions, but it has struggled to make progress and still faces pushback from hardliners who reject its authority.

Even so, Mr Sanalla said several meetings with the eastern NOC took place

since March to unite the oil sector that is the backbone of the country's economy. “We need our production to move higher,” he said.

The two sides have agreed in principle on high level appointments, a budget, the composition of the board and a relocation of the headquarters from Tripoli to Benghazi.

The head of the eastern-backed NOC, Naji al-Maghrabi, will join the board of the national oil company.

He said: “We support this agreement and we are optimistic. But this deal will only hold if funds from oil revenues benefit all Libyan people.”

Mr Sanalla said oil export contracts reached with the eastern NOC, and deemed illegal by his company, would be reviewed. “We consider all contracts and judge each one on their merits,” he said. Exports stand at 228,000 b/d.

Currencies

Dollar driven higher by referendum turbulence

ROGER BLITZ

Risk aversion stalked the currency market with fallout from Brexit sending the dollar higher against a swath of emerging market counterparts.

Sterling dominated the forex landscape by tumbling to new lows against the dollar, yen and euro, with sentiment rattled by UK real estate funds halting redemptions.

The jitters were contagious, and in the broader FX market traders sought havens and sold EM and commodity currencies.

Brad Bechtel, FX strategist at Jefferies International, said Brexit-related turbulence, commodity market volatility, dollar strength and market nervousness were conspiring to offset the high carry opportunity in EMs. He added: “The emerging market sector is going to be

challenging trading from here given the crosswinds in place.”

EM FX appeared to have weathered last week's post-Brexit storm, as risk assets staged a rally.

Yesterday brought 1 per cent-plus falls for the Mexican peso and the South African rand, alongside significant falls for the Korean won, Turkey's lira, Russia's rouble and Poland's zloty. Dollar bloc currencies also fell, as did the Norwegian krone and Swedish krona.

The Brexit effect is carrying over to EM central banks, said Win Thin at Brown Brothers Harriman. Individual EM stories mattered little in the current environment, as policymakers shifted to “a more dovish stance in light of Brexit”, he added.

Chief among the haven beneficiaries was the yen. The dollar at one stage was worth as little as ¥101.56, while the yen

gained 2.6 per cent on the pound and 0.8 per cent on the euro.

The yen's trend all year has been one of appreciation, said Bilal Hafeez, global FX strategist at Nomura, driven by “excessive hope” that the Bank of Japan could weaken the yen and “the vagaries” of Federal Reserve policy.

The euro was flat against the dollar, but the climate for European currencies remains troubling.

Brexit has increased political risks in the EU, said Piotr Matys, EM FX strategist at Rabobank, “which cannot be offset by monetary policy measures”.

The UK referendum may have been a wake-up call to European politicians not to rely on central banks, but to implement structural reforms, yet such reforms were unpopular — and countries like Poland “seem to be doing the opposite”, he added.

MARKETS & INVESTING

TRADING POST

Jamie Chisholm

The MSCI Emerging Markets index by mid-session yesterday was in line to break a five-day winning streak on the latest post-Brexit wobble.

Still, chartists will be intrigued that the recent bounce for the index seems to be sketching out the second shoulder of an inverse head-and-shoulders pattern.

Some may consider that a bullish set-up. Whether it proves to be may depend on the trade-off between monetary policy and growth worries — in other words, will the support provided by the Federal Reserve standing pat on rates counteract fears of a global economic slowdown?

Capital Economics is taking a positive view of the MSCI EMs.

The research boutique points out that “around 80 per cent of the index is accounted for by equities in Emerging Asia and Latin America, which are far removed from the events in Europe”.

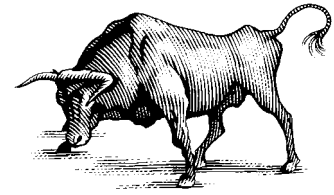
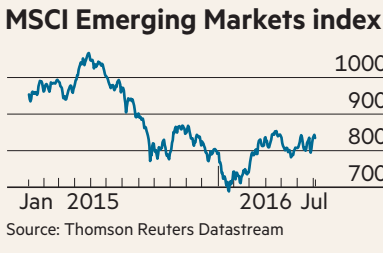
And, providing inflation expectations do not build in the US, the country’s central bank will maintain its dovish pose.

“Brexit appears likely to ensure that global monetary conditions remain looser for longer,” said David Rees at CapEco. “We suspect that this, along with relatively low valuations, will continue to support EM equities in the next 18 months.”

Mr Rees’ forecast is for the MSCI EMs to gain another “15 per cent or so by the end of next year”.

One problem could be if China allows for a sharper-than-expected depreciation of the renminbi.

jamie.chisholm@ft.com



Wall Street
Harley-Davidson goes downhill fast as hopes for KKR takeover fade

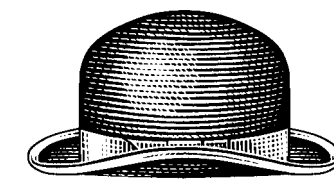
Joe Rennison

Harley-Davidson, the US motorcycle company, sputtered yesterday, as analysts said they saw no evidence of a potential takeover by KKR, a rumour that sent the stock soaring on Friday.

The company’s stock fell 11.5 per cent to \$48 by midday in New York, giving up much of its 19.8 per cent rise from Friday, making it one of the worst-performing stocks in the S&P 500 index.

Friday’s rumours of a \$65-per-share takeover bid from KKR remain uncorroborated. Harley-Davidson will report earnings at the end of this month.

RW Baird noted the company’s strong balance sheet with only \$750m of debt, excluding its financial services arm. However, RW Baird cut its rating to



London
Dixons Carphone’s shares down one-third on consumer concerns

Bryce Elder

Fears about consumer confidence have left **Dixons Carphone** among the sharpest post-Brexit fallers.

Dixons has slumped by a third since the UK referendum result, reducing its market value by £1.6bn. Yesterday’s fall, by 7.5 per cent to 286.7p, dragged the stock below its May 2014 level when Dixons announced an all-share merger with Carphone Warehouse. As well as

Global overview

Sterling and Treasury yields touch fresh lows as real estate is rocked

Pound battered and chance of a US rate rise is pushed back, while UK property funds suspend withdrawals

DAVE SHELLOCK

A renewed bout of nerves regarding the impact of the UK’s vote to leave the EU pushed sterling to a fresh three-decade trough against the dollar and drove benchmark government bond yields to record lows.

Global equity indices came under pressure — with the notable exception of the UK’s FTSE 100 — as banking and energy stocks lost ground, while gold’s stellar post-Brexit vote rally continued. The prevailing “risk-off” environment lifted the dollar and the yen.

But it was the turn of the **US Treasury** market to grab the headlines as the yield on the 10-year note — which moves inversely to its price — touched a record low of 1.36 per cent, down 10 basis points on the day, according to Reuters data.

The US 30-year yield also hit an all-time trough of 2.14 per cent, down 11bp.

On the day before the result of the UK referendum was announced, the 10-year yield had closed at 1.74 per cent and the 30-year at 2.56 per cent.

“The rally in US Treasuries in the wake of the Brexit vote was a textbook-like reaction of the ultimate safe haven to an event that had the potential to upend the growth dynamics for Europe and the global economy as well as the stability of global financial markets,” said Anthony Karydakis, chief economic strategist at Miller Tabak.

“While a portion of the strong demand for Treasuries could be attributed to quarter-end portfolio adjustments exacerbated by the anxiety in global markets, the main reason was the sensible adoption of the view that the



City of London post-Brexit: ft.com/video
The FT’s Philip Stafford discusses the future of trading after Brexit with Mark Hemsley, chief executive of BATS Europe

Federal Reserve’s plans to proceed with the rate normalisation process in the coming months were now put on hold — quite possibly for the rest of the year.”

German and UK 10-year yields also hit record lows, of minus 0.189 per cent and 0.779 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, sterling was down 1.9 per cent against the dollar at \$1.3041 — just off a 31-year low of \$1.2997 — as the markets responded to mounting worries about the UK commercial real estate sector and further dovish comments from Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England.

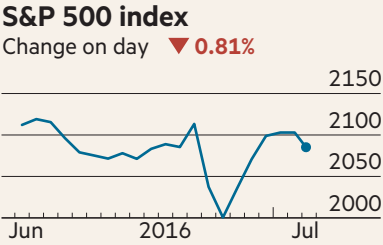
The UK **currency** was down 1.2 per cent against the euro at €1.1764 and 2.8 per cent versus the yen at ¥132.50.

M&G, the fund management arm of Prudential, suspended trading in its UK property portfolio and feeder fund following strong demand from investors to withdraw their money — the third commercial real estate fund to be suspended this week.

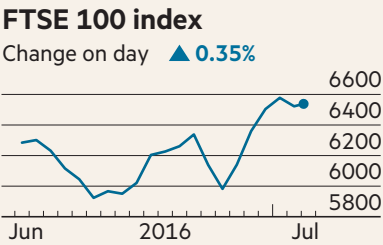
Mr Carney warned that the financial risks of Brexit had “begun to crystallise” and said the Bank had told lenders to pause building a special buffer of capital, with the aim of releasing as much as £150bn in possible loans.

“The announcement of an easing of capital requirements by the Bank’s Financial Policy Committee simply reinforced expectations of additional support from the Monetary Policy Com-

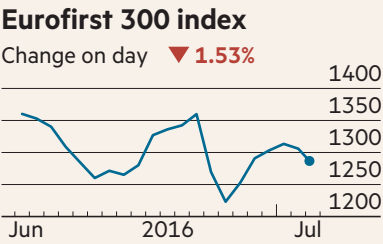
Markets update



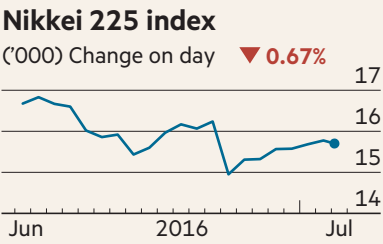
US equities Wall Street took its cue from losses in most other global equity markets as growth worries sent crude oil prices sliding and Brexit concerns remained to the fore



UK equities Sterling’s renewed slide helped support the FTSE 100 after the Bank of England unveiled new measures to prop up the economy in the wake of the UK’s Brexit vote



European equities Concerns about the outlook for the UK helped push the Eurofirst 300 lower for a second day, with Italian bank Monte dei Paschi coming under renewed pressure



Japanese equities A renewed bout of yen strength helped trigger profit-taking following six straight days of gains for the Nikkei

Trading Directory

Built by traders, for traders

As a global market leader, we offer the complete trading package including:

- Award-winning* platform
- Custom-built apps for iPhone, iPad and Android™
- Competitive pricing
- Dedicated 24-hour support

Switch today at cmcmarkets.com

CFD trading can result in losses that exceed your deposits.

*Awarded Best Online Trading Platform by the 2014 Shares awards.

Trading CFDs involves significant risk of loss.



Trade FX, Shares, Indices, Futures and Metals

FxPro UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (registration no. 509956).
FxPro Financial Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (licence no. 078/07).

Direct Market Access to all major worldwide derivative exchanges

FUTURES & OPTIONS | BASE METALS | BULLION | FOREX | NDFs | NDOs | CFDs
MEMBER OF LSE + LME + DGCX + FIA EUROPE

Berkeley has been offering dealing services in derivatives since 1986.
Jackson House 18 Savile Row London W1S 3PW
Email: trade2@bfl.co.uk Web: www.bfl.co.uk Tel: +44 (0) 20 7758 4777

BERKELEY FUTURES LIMITED
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

All investing involves risk and you could lose more than your initial deposit.

Trading Directory

Trading Directory
Runs Daily

Classified Business Advertising
UK: +44 20 7873 4000 | Email: acs.emea@ft.com

Markets & Investing

FINANCIAL TIMES

INSIGHT

Henny Sender



Western shareholder activists try their luck with China Mobile

Activist hedge funds have experienced mixed results when they have pressed Japanese companies to improve returns to shareholders. Now one western fund has decided to try its luck with shareholder activism in China.

Indus Capital Partners, a New York-based Asia-focused hedge fund, has entered into a dialogue with China Mobile — a Hong Kong- and New York-listed state-owned enterprise and the largest mobile company in the world with 826m customers — to see if global investors can get a mainland company to focus more on raising the payout to those who hold its stock.

The experiment comes as the government assesses how to reform SOEs, which can sometimes be lean and profitable, but usually have objectives far different from companies in the capitalist west. “China Mobile is, despite outward appearances, as much a collection of bureaus as it is a proper company in a global sense,” says one investor.

Even when the SOEs are listed and have all the trappings of a public company, including a board of directors and pay out dividends, they remain in the control of a party committee and exist as much to maintain employment and subsidise management as they do to pay dividends to shareholders. Today, they remain in an uneasy state of transition, caught between the conflicting demands of the government and their outside shareholders.

Moreover, reforms that sound compelling can have perverse consequences. As part of the anti-corruption drive, for example, salaries of top managements at many SOEs have been cut. That can mean a return to practices where officials supplement salaries by padding expenses.

Many of Indus Capital’s peers are cynical about activist campaigns in China.

“Activism in a Chinese-listed state enterprise? I don’t see how it works,” says the founder of one equity hedge fund in Hong Kong. “Who cares what minority shareholders think? The politics and the incentives are different. You have to figure out how Sasac [State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission] actually thinks and whether they will ever tolerate making it appear that a hedge fund caused change. There isn’t the basic trust.”

From the outside, the argument in favour of greater payouts would seem compelling. As with many companies in Japan, China Mobile is cash rich. It has net cash in excess of \$60bn. Yet it has cut its dividend for three years in a row (though it has kept its dividend payout ratio constant). Why it needs that much cash is not clear and it has also reduced its capital expenditure for the past three years.

Moreover, China’s telecoms are already concentrated, making unlikely further domestic mergers and acquisitions that would require a big pool of capital. Although Beijing still backs acquisitions abroad, it is becoming more selective as it seeks to discourage capital outflows that could weaken the already vulnerable renminbi.

“Management reiterates the importance to reserve cash for future investment and the need to balance near-term shareholders’ return with long-term company growth,” a recent report from JPMorgan notes.

SoftBank’s acquisition of Sprint in the US is a reminder telecoms can be demanding. The government has allowed internet companies to challenge SOEs, so, for example, Tencent’s WeChat app has already eroded China Mobile’s short message service. Most of the growth in revenues comes from declining pricing that drives data revenue growth, the report adds. Last year data revenues overtook voice revenues for the first time.

China Mobile’s expenses are large by western standards. In 2015, there were some \$11bn of “other expenses” on its income statement, including “office expenses, travelling expenses, consumables and supplies”, according to the annual report. (This is despite the fact Beijing maintains strict controls on overseas travel.)

As the government itself holds about 73 per cent of the shares, minority shareholders would seem to be aligned with the interests of Beijing, whose own finances presumably could use the inflows from greater dividend payouts. The self-interest of minority and majority shareholders would seem to suggest the idea has merit.

‘China Mobile is as much a collection of bureaus as it is a proper company’

henny.sender@ft.com

More comment and data on ft.com

- **Fast FT** Our global team gives you market-moving news and views, 24 hours a day, five days a week. ft.com/fastft
- **Alphaville** Our irreverent financial blog. Join Paul Murphy and Bryce Elder for the daily Markets Live session at 11am. ft.com/alphaville
- **beyondbrics** News and comment from more than 40 emerging economies, headed by Brazil, Russia, India and China. ft.com/beyondbrics
- **Podcast** The Hard Currency podcast takes a look at what is driving the global currency market. ft.com/podcasts
- **Lex Video** Analysis and opinion from the team on the hot issues affecting companies and markets. ft.com/lexvideo

The pound’s devalued status will help mould how the BoE meets economic challenges

ROGER BLITZ

The pound has become a proxy for the UK’s national mood — thrown into turmoil by Brexit, reduced to paralysis by the political crisis and the economic consequences of a future outside the EU. Sterling’s devalued status, now 20 cents below its post-referendum high of \$1.50, is remoulding the UK economy. With further falls expected, the pound has plumbed levels not just well below those reached during the financial crisis, but into territory alien to even the most experienced chief executive, investor, politician or Whitehall official.

“The treasury departments of major British companies will be wrestling with issues of liquidity and volatility that they probably haven’t seen for some time,” says George Magnus, senior economic adviser to UBS.

Sterling marked time against the dollar for much of last week, following a precipitous decline in the 48 trading hours after the referendum poll closed.

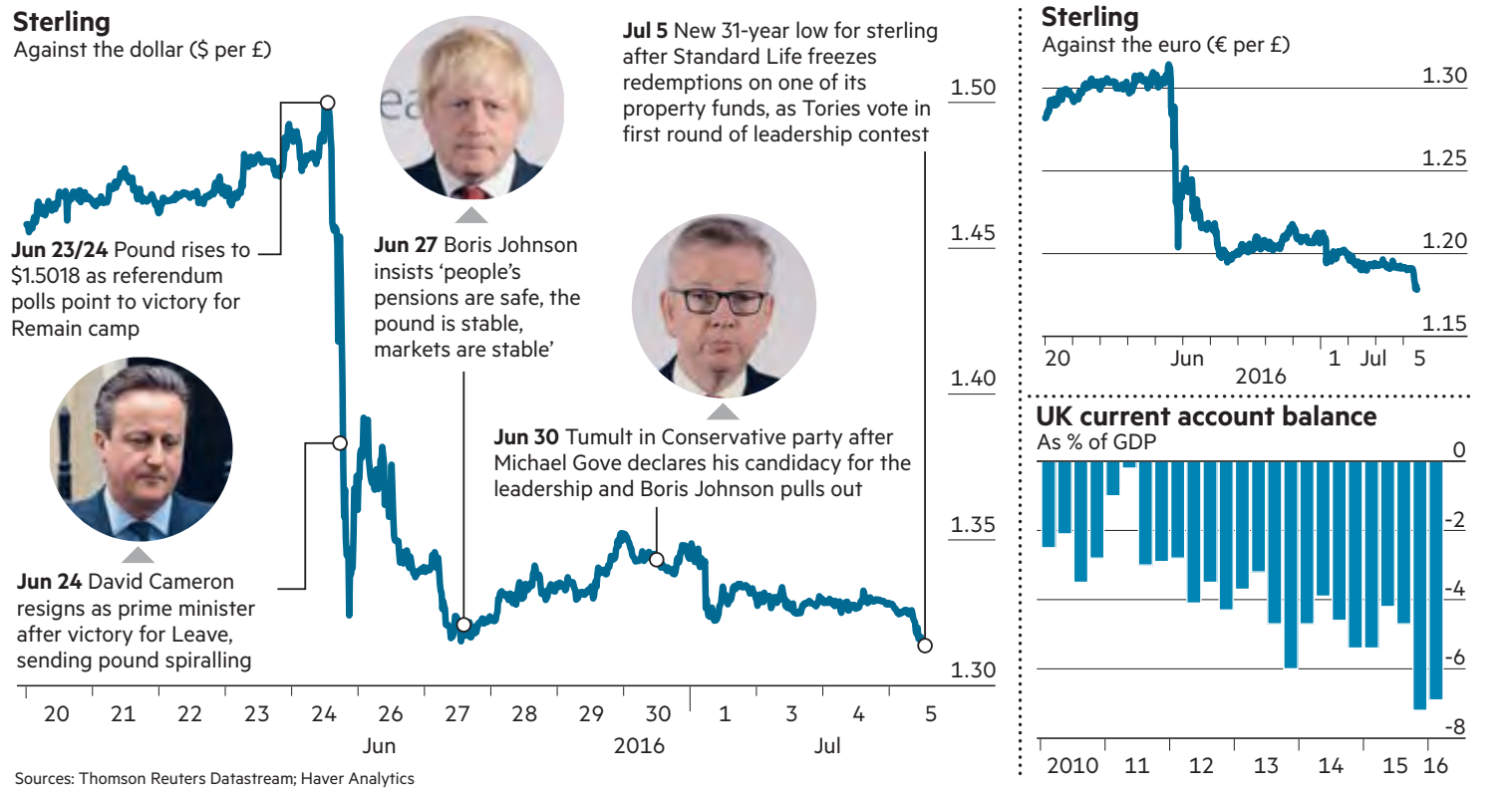
Yesterday, sterling broke \$1.30, falling a further 2.1 per cent to a fresh 31-year low, the day after Standard Life froze redemptions from one of its property funds.

The latest turn lower comes as signs emerge of investors selling sterling to hedge against losses elsewhere, in the same way as selling the Mexican peso has become a proxy for across-the-board risk for emerging markets.

The pound’s devalued status — it is also more than 11 per cent down on the euro since referendum night and nearly 20 per cent lower against the yen — will help determine how the Bank of England meets the challenge of Brexit’s impact on the UK economy.

The market craves certainty, and in a climate of stark political volatility is looking to BoE governor Mark Carney

Turmoil timeline



‘It could be that us gloomsters have got it wrong and the economy doesn’t go into a major contraction’

to provide it. He has made three public appearances in less than a fortnight.

“The governor is doing his technocratic job very well,” says Mark Boleat, policy chairman at the City of London Corporation. “Notwithstanding political instability, he’s getting on with it.”

Politics remains in a state of flux, although it is not a given that the market will turn negative on each convulsion in the continuing saga played out in Westminster.

“It depends on how events play out,” says Alan Wilde, head of fixed income at Baring Asset Management.

“Politics is a factor, but markets often don’t respond necessarily to that degree of uncertainty as they would to an economic data release or a change in policy, so the Bank’s policy is the factor more likely to drive markets.”

Mr Magnus sees it slightly differently.

Investors and currency managers need to bring closure to this period of political insecurity, he says, but it will not happen any time soon. “This inability to bring this to a close, and to be able to fully discount this, is going to hang over the currency for some time,” he says.

For some, a sharply lower currency contains a silver lining. FTSE 100 companies, which earn much of their revenues in dollars, have benefited from sterling’s decline.

A weaker pound also boosts exporters, while Mr Carney said sterling’s weakness “should be beneficial” for the UK’s chronic current account imbalance.

The flipside is what sterling’s weakness says about confidence in the UK. Mr Carney is worried about a slowdown in portfolio flows into UK equities, fearing that concerns about the vulnerabil-

ity of the UK’s current account deficit to big shifts in foreign capital and sharp sterling weakness “appear to have been borne out”.

As Mr Carney rummages in his policy toolbox for measures to offset the likely slowdown in the economy, many investors expect him to fall back on lower interest rates and quantitative easing.

The settled view among FX strategists is that sterling will fall to the mid-\$1.25 level. To Mr Magnus, that sounds like a rounding error — it could go further.

“If the data starts to look rather poorer from the third quarter, that will give the market and the exchange rate something more concrete to focus on,” says Mr Magnus.

“It could be that us gloomsters have got it wrong and the economy doesn’t go into a major contraction. It could go both ways.”

Capital markets

Monte dei Paschi debt doubts fuel bond drop

THOMAS HALE

The price of a bond issued by Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Italy’s third-largest lender, plunged more than a tenth yesterday in the latest sign of growing investor alarm over bad debts within the country’s financial institutions.

Anxiety has spread from stock markets, where shares in the world’s oldest bank have fallen by more than a quarter this week to reach a record low, after the European Central Bank demanded it shed another €10bn in bad loans.

It comes as Matteo Renzi, the Italian prime minister, has begun to weigh whether to bypass banking regulations and bail out lenders using public funds. Under EU rules, such bailouts are illegal unless creditors bear the brunt of a rescue.

The Monte dei Paschi subordinated bond was trading at 77 cents on the euro yesterday, a drop of more than 16 per cent so far this week.

The bank’s five-year subordinated credit default swaps, which reflects the cost to insure against default, jumped by 320 basis points to 1,646 basis points, the highest level yet.

Bonds issued by other Italian banks also weakened. An Intesa coco bond — the riskiest form of bank debt — fell 3.2 per cent, to just over 91 cents on the euro. A €750m subordinated bond issued by UniCredit, Italy’s only bank large enough to be considered systemic, was down 2.3 per cent to under 96 cents on the euro.

Concerns have escalated over an estimated €360bn of non-performing loans within

the Italian banking system. The Italian 10-year bond yield, which moves inversely to prices, is now trading at 1.24 per cent, above that of Spain’s benchmark. An index of Italian bank shares has halved in value this year.

The possibility of official intervention serves to highlight the scale of the problem, but at the same time an injection of capital by the government would in principle offer greater protection to bond holders.

“This time is the only time there’s a net positive where the government might do something concrete,” said one investor. “The market is not really buying it.” He added that some of the bonds from higher quality banks were “unusually cheap”.

In a report published on Monday, Fitch Ratings said “measures that would strengthen asset quality or capital without triggering bail-in could be positive for Italian banks’ issuer default ratings”.

However, it also said, “the impediments under EU legislation to using public funds will make a solution difficult to achieve”.

Rating agencies have suggested more borrowing from the Italian government to support banks would undermine its creditworthiness.

As Monte dei Paschi’s share price dropped 20 per cent, other banks were mixed, with UniCredit up 0.7 per cent. The FTSE Italia All-Share banks index closed nearly 2 per cent lower.

Banks across Europe fell, with the Euro Stoxx Banks index down 2.4 per cent. Other risky bank debt also dropped, including a Deutsche Bank coco bond.

The advertisement features a football player in a black jersey holding a large trophy with the Hublot logo. Below the player, a large Hublot watch is displayed. The text 'HUBLOT' is prominently shown in large letters. At the bottom, it says 'BIG BANG UNICO RETROGRADE UEFA EURO 2016™'. The Hublot logo and 'HUBLOT BOUTIQUES' are also visible.