CLIMATE CHANGE: ENERGY TRANSITION RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN PUBLIC COMPANIES' CREDIT WORTHINESS

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Introduction



Source: World Health Organization - Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard - Deaths (as of October 20th, 2020)

- Mounting evidence that the proliferation and transmission of certain diseases is facilitated by global warming.
- E.g. dengue viruses, cholera, some other vibrios have better life due to global warming.

Source: Under the Weather: Climate, Ecosystems, and Infectious Disease. National Research Council (US) Committee on Climate, Ecosystems, Infectious Diseases, and Human Health. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); Date: 2001. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK222258/.

Climate Risks & Opportunities in Banks' Lending Activities

Risks:

Collateral Depreciation: The site of a commercial borrower used as collateral can depreciate due to natural disasters (floods, etc.), thus increasing the expected loss for the bank.

Lack of Liquidity: A firm's earnings could be influenced by increased costs of chosen investments into new/green technologies. These investments, in turn, could decrease its liquidity and, therefore, the ability to repay a loan. Moreover, the need for additional capital to invest in green technologies could result in a decrease of the capital/debt ratio, which in turn would lead to an increase in credit risk.

Debt Service Capacity: The potential introduction/increase of a carbon tax will penalize companies with high greenhouse gas emissions, thus affecting their debt service capacity.

Earnings loss: There can also be indirect influences that affect a borrower's earnings, such as operations disruption by environmental activists or consumer boycotts against "brown" companies.

Opportunities:

Profitability Enhancements: Resource efficiency and cost savings due to innovative technologies can help maximize a borrower's profits and liquidity.

Higher Competitiveness: Competitive Companies with lower costs may reduce prices and compete more effectively to gain market share and increase earnings. These have a positive impact on firms' creditworthiness.

Regulatory Consensus Emerging on Climate Risk

| REGION | REGULATOR | CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT MEASURES | TIMELINES ¹ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| United Kingdom | BoE/PRA | Launched a discussion paper on biennial stress scenario for climate risk stress testing for banks and insurers (Dec 2019) Consultations were open till Mar 2020 | 2H 2020: Publication of Stress Scenarios 1H 2021: Commencement of Exercise |
| European Union | ECB/EBA | Prior to the EBA 2020 stress test cancellation, said that climate risks won't be part of the tests Issued guidance document for discussion on wide ranging practices (May 2020) | • End-2020: Guidelinesin effect |
| France | ACPR | Issued stress testing discussion paper with scenarios included (May 2020) | End-2020: Bank stress test submissions Apr 2021: Publication of results |
| Singapore | MAS | The 2018 insurance stress tests incorporated extreme flooding scenarios Released discussion paper on climate risk, including stress testing (Jun 2020) | Aug-2020: Closure of consultation Aug/Sep 2021: Compliance timeline |
| Netherlands | DNB | 2017 stress tests included scenarios of physical climate risks on non-life insurers | • N/A |
| Denmark | Danmarks Nationalbank | Announced it may present an analysis of transition risks in the coming stress test of credit institutions (Dec 2019) | Mid-2020: Publication of analysis of transition risks |
| Australia | APRA | Announced it would conduct climate risk vulnerability assessment for large ADIs (Feb 2020) | 2H 2020: Scenario design 2021: Execution |
| Canada | Bank of Canada | Developing models to understand economic consequences of climate change (Nov 2019) | • N/A |
| Source: S&P Global Market intelligence (As of August 31 st , 2020). For illustrative purposes only. 1Subject to revision, | | | |

Market Intelligence's Energy-Transition Credit Risk Overlays

| FUNDAMENTALS-DRIVEN | MARKET-VALUATION DRIVEN | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Company financials conditioned on climate-linked transition scenarios. | Company earnings and costs conditioned on climate- linked transition scenarios. | |
| Scope: up-stream oil & gas large firms (1,200+ ¹); will be expanded to other 6 carbon-intensive sectors | Scope: all sectors, public (45,000+ ²) and private firms; will be expanded to include physical risks | |
| Main Output: firm's projected full financial statements and credit score change | Main Output: firm's projected costs, revenues, earnings, (implied) market cap, credit score change | |
| Engine: CreditModel TM | Engine: PD Model Market Signals | |
| PROS: Can be used to power other fundamentals-based credit risk models | PROS: Credit score change as overlay to credit scores produced by other credit risk models | |
| Sector-specific granular data | Risks/opportunities and multiple response types | |
| In-depth scenario analysis of large exposures to borrowers, loan origination and benchmarking. | • Scaling scenario analysis to thousands of exposures in all sectors , loan origination and benchmarking. | |
| Developed in consultation with Oliver Wyman* | Complementary to Fundamentals approach | |
| *Oliver Wyman is not an affiliate of S&P Global or any of its divisions. | ^{1,2} : Coverage figures: S&P Global Market Intelligence as of August 31 st , 2020. | |

³ REMIND is a global multi-regional model incorporating the economy, the climate system and a detailed representation of the energy sector developed by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, REMIND stands for Regionalized Model of Investments and Development. https://www.pik-potsdam.de/research/transformation-pathways/models/remind/remind



Estimated Total Yearly Costs¹ Of European Union Public Firms



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (Asof August 31st, 2020). For illustrative purposes only. Based on 4596 European Union public firms in S&P Global Market Intelligence's database. ¹ Carbon tax and (where applicable) abatement costs.

- Business as usual (BAU): carbon emissions keep increasing over time, despite carbon tax increases.
- Adaptation: carbon emissions decrease as carbon tax increases; abatement costs add up to the "bill".

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Adaptation Costs Of European Union Public Firms

<0.1%

>1%

Abatement costs estimate as fraction of (projected) total revenues (over fast transition, by 2050)



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (Asof August 31st, 2020). For illustrative purposes only.

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Energy Transition For European Union Public Firms

Multiple Response Types Over A Fast Transition (with liabilities and other expenses kept constant)



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (As of August 31st, 2020). For illustrative purposes only. Based on a sample of 4596 European Union public firms in S&P Global Market Intelligence's database.

Business As Usual (BAU): carbon tax increase; no emission reduction

Adaptation: carbon tax increase; emission reduction (with abatement costs)

Forced Action: carbon tax increase; governments enforce carbon emission reduction,¹ inducing hefty revenue losses (linked to asset stranding).

Neglecting additional defaults due to physical risk event losses.

¹ E.g. by banning polluting materials, carbon-intensive technologies, etc.

Energy Transition For European Union Public Firms

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¹ E.g. by banning polluting materials, carbon-intensive technologies, etc.



Estimated Transition Scenarios: European Union Public Firms Technical¹ Defaults



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (as of August 31st, 2020). For illustrative purposes only. Based on a sample of 4596 European Union public firms in S&P Global Market Intelligence's database. ¹Technical default: company market capitalization falls below zero.

- Assuming total liabilities and other operating costs remain similar to current levels.
- Neglecting additional defaults due to physical risk event losses.

European Union Public Firms' Cumulative Default Rate By Country By 2050



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (As of August 31st, 2020). For illustrative purposes only. Based on a sample of 4596 European Union public firms in S&P Global Market Intelligence's database.

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Estimated Fast Transition: Default Rates By Industry Sector



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (As of August 31st, 2020). For illustrative purposes only. Based on a sample of 4596 European Union public firms in S&P Global Market Intelligence's database. ¹Based on emissions produced from ow ned (e.g. reported in their balance sheet) or controlled (e.g. rented) assets.

- Assuming total liabilities and other operating costs remain similar to current levels.
- Neglecting additional defaults due to physical risk event losses.

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Conclusions

- > The transition to a low-carbon economy poses several risks that can impact a firm's creditworthiness, but also offers opportunities to those who are ready to seize them.
- Using S&P Global Market Intelligence's data and analytics, we analysed the impact of multiple carbon tax scenarios on the creditworthiness of European Union public firms over the next 30 years.
- The speed of the carbon tax increase and the firms' response type (e.g. adaptation, business as usual or forced action) are critical drivers of the creditworthiness change and can trigger several defaults among public companies.
- Our analysis suggests that over a fast increase of the carbon tax (by 2050), the major sectors affected from a default risk standpoint are: Materials, Utilities, and Technology Hardware & Equipment. This risk is lower when companies start adopting greener technology/reduce emissions than in a business as usual or forced action scenario.
- Our market-valuation approach is complementary to a more fundamentals-based approach that conditions full company financial statements on a given carbon pricing path,¹ allowing a more detailed and in-depth analysis for carbon-specific sectors.

¹ Thistool is developed in consultation with Oliver WymanTM. Oliver Wyman is not an affiliate of S&P Global or any of its divisions.

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