



EDMOND
DE ROTHSCHILD

ASSET ALLOCATION STRATEGY

MARKET ANALYSIS AND PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT THEMES

OCTOBER 2019

THE PERSISTENCE OF A CAUTIOUS STANCE

► The economic and political climate is glum, and things continue to worsen. Although we do not predict a recession in the foreseeable future, we nevertheless cannot identify any factor likely to reverse the cycle.



BENJAMIN MELMAN

*Global Chief Investment Officer,
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Looking at historical economic data for the US, we see that the slowdown began in the Spring 2018, before the “trade war” began ramping up, probably under the effect of downwards pressure on margins. However, it goes without saying that the trade war has drastically amplified the corporate investment slowdown due to the rising uncertainty, dragging the manufacturing sector towards a recession. To tell the truth, this cautious outlook is somewhat consensual and can also be seen among investors. Faced with this slowdown, the biggest news is that the authorities this time wasted no time on launching their counter-attack. The Federal Reserve and European Central Bank were very quick to lighten their monetary policy and the possibility of a stimulus plan has already been discussed on both sides of the Atlantic, which is a good news, but not yet concrete enough to prompt a reverse in the forecasts.

The build-up of political risks across Europe prompted us to reduce our equity weighting at the beginning of August. Since then, the collapse of the Italian Government supported by the Northern League and the mounting failures by Boris Johnson have postponed the risk of a difficult European autumn and we have adjusted our position to one with lesser exposure. That said, we remain rather cautious overall.

On the bond markets, we benefited from tension over long rates in September to slightly increase our exposure to Government bonds. Although Government bonds have unusually low yields, the worsening economic environment tells us to remain present in this asset class. More generally, we continue to focus on searching for yields and to favour financial subordinated bonds, with relatively good yields and improving fundamentals thanks to the rise in tier one core equity ratios. Emerging market bonds (hard currency) are in our opinion able to benefit from new inflows coming from Europe due to the higher yields after the return of quantitative easing.



KEY POINTS

**Recession is unlikely in
the foreseeable future**

**European political risks
held at bay for now**

**Slight overweight on
Government bonds**



NEXT HEADLINE EVENTS

Next ECB meeting: October 24

Next FED meeting: October 29 & 30

US and Chinese officials meeting
in Washington: October 10 & 11

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