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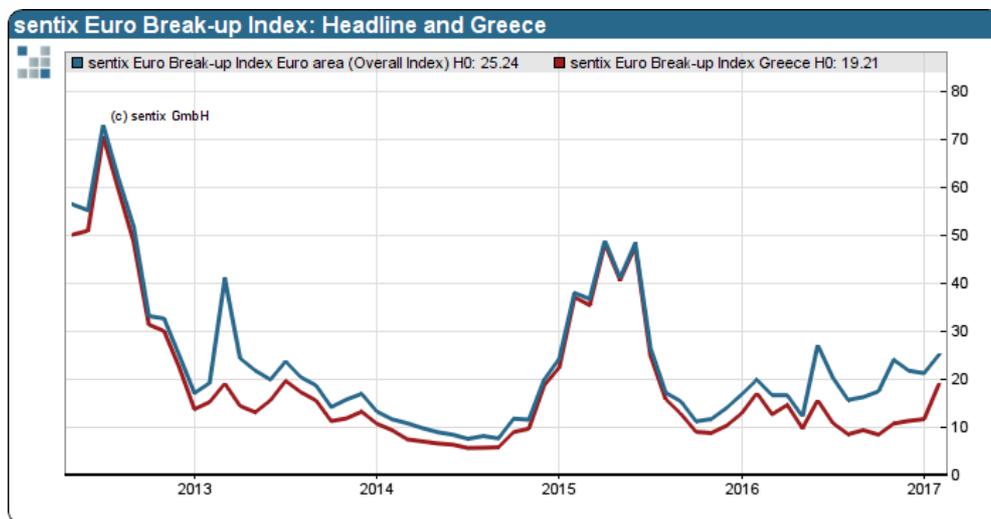
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Euro Break-up Index: the threatening three

After two years absence, the euro-crisis is back in the spotlight. However, this time is different. The protagonists have multiplied as France and Italy now join Greece as likely exit candidates. The sentix indicator that measures the risk of contagion jumps for the first time since 2012/13 above 45% which puts politics under pressure to curtail the crisis from spreading further.

The euro crisis has never completely disappeared over the last years, which becomes apparent these days. As more than 25% of sentix survey participants believe that at least one member state will quit the single currency, our indicator has jumped to risk levels last seen around the time of the surprising Brexit in June 2016. Back then, the sentix Euro Break-up Index (EBI) stood at 27.5%.



sentix Euro Break-up Index: Headline Index Eurozone and sub-index for Greece

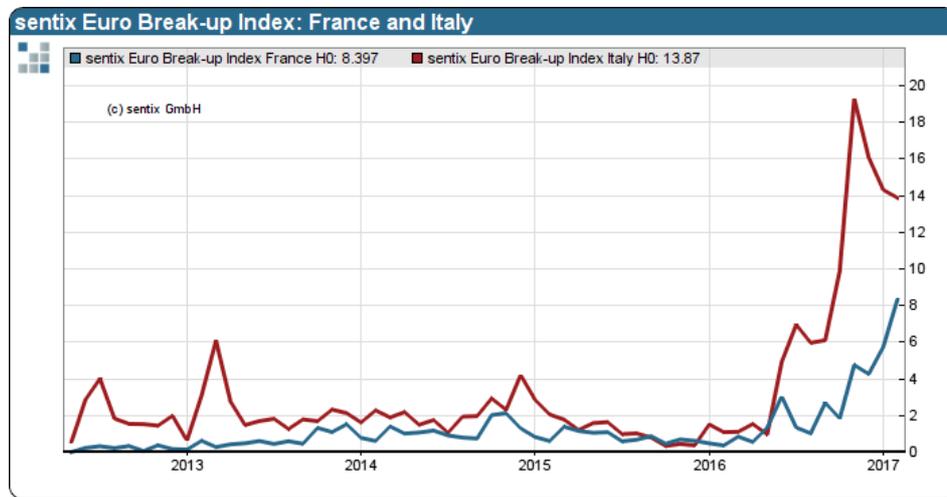
We can identify three potential reasons for the latest surge of contagion risk. As the annual interest repayment day approaches, Greece is quasi on schedule back in the media. Effectively, politicians must concede that the rescue policies have failed for Greece. However, as elections approach, politicians suddenly shift their agenda: now austerity is “out”.

Nevertheless, investors are not stupid. They review the latest policy changes more as election tactics rather than as a consistent approach which will sustain the upcoming elections in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

The Eurozone today has more issues than just the condition of Greece.

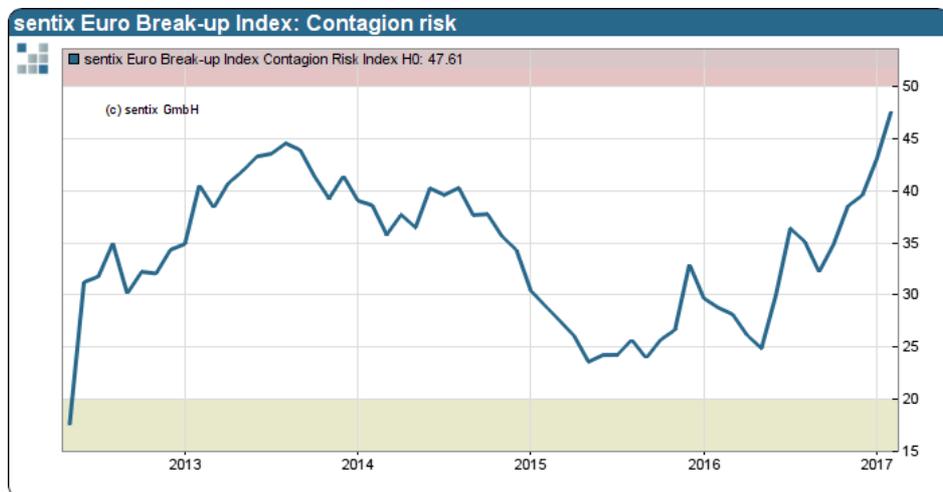


Despite that, the situation in Italy has calmed somewhat in the recent weeks. However, the sentix Break-up probability remains high at 13.9%. Also, the Break-up probability for France is on the rise. The sub-index for France reads an exit probability of 8.4%, up from 5.7% in January - a new all-time high.



sentix Euro Break-up Index – sub-indices for France and the Italy

The higher exit probabilities stem from investors uncertainty about forecasters ability to predict election outcomes accurately. Investors fear forecasters might get it wrong again after last year's surprise victory of Trump and Brexit. Nevertheless, the probability of a surprise election of contending LePen in France's presidential race is less likely.



sentix Euro Break-up Index: Contagion risk index

Consequently, the euro-crisis has become more contagious. The sentix Index measuring contagion risk passes previous levels last seen during the high of the crisis in 2012/13. Would the euro-crisis be a flue, politicians were not shy to issue pandemic alerts.



Background

The sentix Euro Breakup Index is published on a monthly basis and was launched in June 2012. Its poll is running for two days around the fourth Friday of each month. Results are regularly published on the following Tuesday morning. Survey participants may choose up to three euro-zone member states of which they think they will quit the currency union within the next twelve months. Further details on the sentix Euro Breakup Index can be found on <http://ebr.sentix.de>.

This month's reading of 25.2% means that currently, this percentage of all surveyed investors expect the euro to break up within the next twelve months. The EBI has reached its high at 73% in July 2012 and touched its low at 7.6% in July 2014.

The current poll in which 1.051 institutional and retail investors participated was conducted from January, 23th to January, 25th 2016.

About sentix

sentix is the pioneer and leading provider of sentiment analyses (behavioural finance) in Europe. Since 2001 sentix surveys on a weekly basis around 5,000 investors from over 20 countries (comprising over 1,100 institutional and almost 4,500 individual investors) about their expectations for financial markets as well as for economic developments and their portfolio actions. The sentix survey results are representative of a broadly diversified group of investors.

sentix surveys offer the rare combination of a vast number of participants, high quality and an outstanding speed with which information is gathered and passed on. All sentix indices are regularly accessible for sentix data clients just about one day after the close of each poll – via the sentix website or Bloomberg. sentix clients thus can use sentix data almost in real time to further improve performance.

sentix GmbH was founded in 2001 and today represents the basis for all the services the sentix group offers to its clients in the field of Behavioral Finance.



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