Interesting… Donald Trump's greatest achievement of his first 100 days as president was that there was a 101st day. That said, he also has delivered on his promise to repeal Obamacare! Yesterday, the House passed the repeal in a razor-thin GOP victory, salvaging what at times appeared to be a doomed mission to repeal and partially replace Obamacare. The 217-213 vote sends the American Health Care Act to the Senate, where it has little chance of being passed in its current form. What does it mean? Who knows, possibly nothing, but hospital stocks rallied on news the Senate GOP would craft its own bill. Big numbers have been thrown about- 24 million Americans will lose coverage some say, then some say the costs will be $25 billion per annum to the tax payers and not the $8 billion over 5 years that the proponents proclaim. "It's quite obvious that this bill was written by Republicans that didn't care about health care and wanted to move on to tax reform," said Michael Cannon, director of health-policy studies at the conservative Cato Institute.
Clearly "work-in-progress"- reminds us a little of the now infamous, off-the-cuff Travel Ban… to do for the sake of doing… troubling modus operandi when extrapolated to the North Korean subject and the tax reform project and now to Trump's "priority" settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; "I want to see peace with Israel and the Palestinians," he told Reuters in an interview last week. "There is no reason there's not peace between Israel and the Palestinians — none whatsoever." For decades, this goal has eluded world leaders, including Trump's predecessor Barack Obama. That Trump has tasked his son-in-law Jared Kushner with negotiating peace and long-time lawyer, Jason Greenblatt, to be his on-the-ground envoy deal are signs of the importance the president places on the issue. Should the concerned parties rejoice or worry? According to Ghassan Khatib, a professor of political science at Birzeit University in the West Bank, Trump may be underestimating the task at hand. "The main concern for Palestinians is to make him understand that there are two sides ... and that the second side is important," he said. "He's not interested in details," he said. "Israelis and Palestinians know all the details. What Trump can contribute is that he is ready to act regardless of not knowing the details, which might do something ... in the unpredictable world we live in right now."

With this confusing political backdrop, we note with a smile the good Q1 financial results of companies in both the US and Europe. Yes, we probably are out-of-the-woods as even top-line revenues are beating expectations. The Fed held rates after their Wednesday meeting, but hinted that a rise is in the cards for June. The accompanying statement showed some misgivings about an economy that grew just 0.7% in the first quarter. The statement did say it expected the first-quarter's anaemic pace to speed up later in the year. The FOMC did not address an issue of increasing concern in the market – its $4.5 trillion balance sheet on which it stores its bond portfolio. Fed officials have indicated that it will change its policy of reinvesting proceeds from its holdings, a move they say would be tantamount to a series of interest rate hikes. However, officials have not set forth a plan over how that will happen. And we saw that the US private sector created 177K new jobs in April, a good number but a slowing rate of improvement. But personal income rose just 0.2% in March, below the expected 0.3% figure. U.S. consumer spending was unchanged in March for a second straight month and the overall monthly inflation rate fell for the first time in a year, confirming the weak domestic demand in the first quarter. So, bonds held steady with the benchmark 10-year Treasury Note yielding 2.35%, equities flat, gold down as is the US Dollar and oil. Today, oil (WTI) slid below $45 a barrel for the first time since OPEC agreed to cut output in November as U.S. shale confounds the producer group's attempts to prop up prices. In less than 10 minutes on Friday, U.S. futures slumped more than $1 amid a surge in volume. They have collapsed 8.6% this week, erasing all the gains since OPEC agreed to curb production. "Markets are losing faith that the global inventory glut will disappear on OPEC's cuts," said Michael Poulsen, an analyst at Global Risk Management Ltd. Yes, you are right in thinking that America is the motor of the World- U.S. crude production rose to 9.29 million barrels last week, the highest level since August 2015, offsetting OPEC's best intentions. Higher output in the United States, Canada and Libya outweighed lower production by Russia and major OPEC exporters. Although he may take credit for this, it wasn't a Trump tweet pushing oil down… And a side-result is the decline in the Russian Rouble…
On the other hand, Euro-area factories expanded output at the fastest pace since 2011 as the currency bloc's economy continued to gather momentum. A gauge of manufacturing activity rose to 56.7 in April from 56.2 the previous month, IHS Markit reported on Tuesday. An April 21 preliminary estimate was for an increase to 56.8. With the European Central Bank showing little hurry to end extraordinary stimulus, global trade strengthening and political risk receding as centrist Emmanuel Macron looks poised to become the next French president, the currency bloc's recovery is set to broaden. Data on Wednesday showed gross domestic product gained 0.5% in the first quarter. Closing in to the US… And now just a couple of days away from the French elections, if indeed French Independent centrist Emmanuel Macron extended his lead in the polls over far-right candidate Marine Le Pen, Macron is seen getting 62% of the votes in the second round compared to 38% for Le Pen. We may well experience a further improvement in the outlook for Europe as the political risks abate on the old continent. Oh, let's not forget that the EU has now billed the UK for 100 billion Euros for leaving… And then, Greece and its foreign creditors reached a deal early on Tuesday on a package of bailout-mandated reforms, paving the way for the disbursement of further rescue funds. Combined, these titbits could explain the Euro's rally and the falling US Dollar… maybe…

We still like the Dollar best, but then, the truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable…

Market Weekly Highlights:

- The greenback has marked a pause since last year's strong rebound against all currencies. The DXY had reached 103.80 and then has lost some ground this year to trade just above 99, almost unchanged this week at 98.78. The USD is trading around 1.097 against the EUR and at 0.9880 against the CHF. The Pound is trading steady at almost 1.29 after the big jump two weeks ago. The Japanese Yen is trading lower for the week against the USD at 112.33, remaining still up vs. the Dollar YTD since the beginning of the year.
  The Russian Rouble is trading lower against the USD at 58.33 for the week following the oil pattern. The Brazilian Real is also trading lower at 3.188 for the week. Crude oil WTI reached $55.24 a barrel on the first day of trading on January 1st and is now trading strongly lower again for the week at around $45.20 losing all the gains of the first quarter. Brent is trading at $48.05.

- The yield on 10Y U.S. Treasuries is trading slightly higher this week at 2.35% as we write. The Japanese 10 year JGB is also trading almost unchanged for the week and continues to offer POSITIVE returns trading at 0.021%.
  In Europe, since the start of year we saw the German Bund trading lower in yield almost every day reaching almost 0.15% and then after the French election bouncing back to almost 0.40% and now trading at 0.385%. The French 10Y Yield is now back below the 1% trading at almost 0.82%
  The Swiss 10 year bond yield traded this week around -0.07%, having bounced from -0.20% lows of last weeks.
  In Peripheral Europe Italian 10Y yields crossed the 2% level having started the year at 1.71% and are currently at 1.95% while the Spanish 10Y yields trade 40bps lower having started the year at 1.30% and currently trading at 1.59%.

- All markets are up globally this week. In the USA, all the major indices have marked all new time highs this month with DJIA trading just below 21'000 and after the short correction of the last month, Nasdaq at above 6070, and SP500 at almost 2'390.
  So far for the week DJIA is down at 0.14%, Nasdaq is up at 0.44%, while SP500 is up, if only 0.03%. In Europe stocks are also strongly up for the week with the exception of FTSE 100 which is slightly down at 0.02%, while all other major European markets are up over 1%- Eurostoxx50 is showing a positive 1.53% for the week together with DAX gaining 1.31% and CAC40 +1.59%. The peripheral Europe is strongly up with IBEX at +2.79%, Italian MIB at 2.50%.
  In Latam Bovespa is flat for the week while in Asia the Hang Seng is down 0.47% and Shanghai Composite bucking the trend loosing 1.56%. Nikkei is trading higher for the week showing a gain of 1.92%.

Highlighted items are interesting data points for the week

All data is compiled from Bloomberg

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE 04/05/2017

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
			PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)									
LIBOR RATES AND YIELD ON US GOVERNMENT BONDS (Yield in %, Change in bps)												
US 3 MONTH	USD	0.87	0.00	8.15	8.15	7.63	37.64	50.75	37.64	68.56	-	
US 2 YEAR	USD	1.31	0.02	4.42	4.42	7.21	10.92	52.23	11.78	58.79	-	
US 10 YEAR	USD	2.35	-0.36	7.03	7.03	1.51	-11.43	57.43	-9.38	60.52	-	
US LIBOR 3M	USD	1.17	-0.25	-0.06	-0.11	2.14	13.72	29.03	17.33	53.83	-	
EUR LIBOR 3M	EUR	-0.36	0.00	-0.14	0.07	-0.14	-1.83	-3.93	-2.57	-8.83	-	
GBP LIBOR 3M	GBP	0.32	-0.19	-0.27	-0.34	-1.75	-3.03	-7.72	-4.48	-26.78	-	
CHF LIBOR 3M	CHF	-0.73	0.00	-0.20	-0.20	-0.24	-0.58	-0.28	-0.28	-0.06		
FIXED INCOME INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												**Yield to Worst**
GLOBAL AGG TR HEDGED	USD	504.15	-0.15	-0.16	-0.16	0.28	1.42	-0.59	0.96	1.05	10.83	1.61
GLOBAL HY TR	USD	1,246.02	-0.13	0.09	0.09	1.61	2.73	5.57	5.05	12.15	12.19	5.32
US GOVERNMENT TR	USD	2,138.96	-0.24	-0.32	-0.32	0.14	1.02	-1.94	1.05	-1.30	5.94	1.61
US CORPORATE TR	USD	2,781.41	-0.26	-0.29	-0.29	0.47	1.91	-0.12	2.00	2.44	10.55	3.30
US HIGH YIELD TR	USD	1,883.30	-0.22	-0.05	-0.05	0.85	1.93	6.13	3.83	13.93	14.72	5.67
EU GOVERNMENT TR	EUR	247.93	-0.11	-0.13	-0.06	0.06	1.05	-1.80	-0.95	-0.51	11.33	0.57
EU CORPORATE TR	USD	263.76	-0.14	-0.05	-0.06	0.25	1.52	1.12	1.28	4.01	12.55	0.86
EU HIGH YIELD TR	EUR	306.24	0.12	0.50	0.40	1.36	2.47	4.84	3.38	8.73	15.77	3.36
BARCLAYS GLOBAL CONVERT.	USD	231.40	-0.12	-0.57	-0.46	0.40	1.49	7.75	3.97	10.28	8.08	-
GLOBAL EM TR (HEDGED)	USD	370.87	-0.21	-0.07	-0.07	0.89	2.66	2.57	4.26	8.06	16.87	4.22
S&P/LSTA U.S. LEV LOAN	USD	98.85	0.01	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.17	1.49	0.24	8.54	0.43	4.46
COMMODITY INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												
GSCI INDEX TOTAL RETURN	USD	2,159.39	-2.90	-3.29	-3.89	-6.21	-10.42	-0.65	-10.67	-3.99	-56.78	
GSCI ENERGY TR	USD	353.63	-4.25	-6.19	-6.66	-11.13	-16.01	-2.79	-18.67	-6.40	-68.88	
GSCI INDUSTRIAL METALS TR	USD	1,163.31	-0.80	-1.70	-2.12	-4.00	-2.83	7.36	3.64	15.03	-11.80	
GSCI PRECIOUS METALS TR	USD	1,489.68	-1.58	-3.27	-3.39	-3.38	-0.39	-6.99	5.78	-4.97	-8.89	
GSCI AGRICULTURE TR	USD	415.73	-1.85	0.83	0.18	-0.45	-8.12	-8.14	-3.55	-10.82	-41.28	
GENERIC 1ST 'CL' FUTURE	USD	44.97	-1.21	-8.84	-8.84	-12.83	-18.89	-6.89	-19.88	-13.83	-61.78	
GOLD SPOT $/OZ	USD	1,231.89	0.31	-2.87	-2.87	-1.90	0.96	-5.57	6.91	-3.59	-5.98	
CURRENCIES												
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	USD	98.80	-0.02	-0.27	-0.27	-1.77	-1.09	1.77	-3.35	5.33	24.28	
Euro Spot	EUR	1.10	-0.16	0.66	0.66	2.85	2.02	-0.67	4.28	-3.84	-20.96	
Japanese Yen Spot	JPY	112.46	0.15	-0.71	-0.71	-1.42	-0.49	-6.97	4.16	-4.48	-9.04	
British Pound Spot	GBP	1.29	0.07	-0.15	-0.15	3.60	3.71	4.32	4.80	-10.72	-23.33	
Swiss Franc Spot	CHF	0.99	-0.18	0.65	0.65	1.69	0.30	-1.41	3.12	-2.07	-11.17	
Brazilian Real Spot	BRL	3.19	-0.71	-0.13	-0.37	-2.99	-2.18	1.49	2.09	11.30	-30.34	
China Renminbi Spot	CNY	6.90	-0.04	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06	-0.52	-1.77	0.67	-5.63	-9.48	
Singapore Dollar Spot	SGD	1.40	-0.18	-0.43	-0.43	-0.13	0.44	-0.96	3.12	-3.14	-10.88	
Russian Ruble Spot	RUB	58.38	-0.61	-3.09	-3.09	-4.07	0.33	8.35	4.76	12.20	-39.17	
Norwegian Krone Spot	NOK	8.68	-0.24	-1.29	-1.29	-1.01	-5.10	-5.32	-0.66	-6.00	-31.50	
VOLATILITY / LIQUIDITY INDICES												
CBOE SPX VOLATILITY INDX	USD	10.46	-2.06	-3.05	-3.05	-18.62	-4.38	-53.40	-25.28	-34.07	-21.07	
USD SWAP SPREAD SEMI 2YR	USD	28.98	-	-6.84	-6.84	-13.66	-11.41	13.48	13.25	105.84	108.52	
TED SPREAD		29.74	-	-18.34	-21.18	-17.96	-44.58	-42.40	-40.58	-33.30	43.19	

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE 04/05/2017

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
			PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)									
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY REGION												**P/E**
S&P 500 INDEX	USD	2,389.52	0.06	0.03	0.22	1.55	4.01	14.60	6.73	16.53	26.79	18.30
DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	USD	20,951.47	-0.03	-0.14	0.05	1.47	4.38	17.12	6.02	18.63	26.74	17.34
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX	USD	6,075.34	0.05	0.44	0.46	3.60	7.21	20.39	12.86	28.79	46.82	20.50
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX	USD	1,388.85	-0.14	-2.00	-0.83	2.71	0.80	19.37	2.34	25.35	23.31	19.35
EURO STOXX 50	EUR	3,627.88	1.33	1.52	1.52	4.06	10.40	22.31	9.82	22.90	13.95	15.40
EURO STOXX 600	EUR	391.98	0.75	0.95	0.95	2.81	7.33	18.85	8.12	17.40	15.99	15.97
CAC 40 INDEX	EUR	5,372.42	1.35	1.43	1.51	5.01	10.81	22.15	9.97	23.79	19.82	15.79
DAX INDEX	EUR	12,647.78	0.96	1.44	1.49	3.32	8.34	23.04	9.95	28.13	32.46	13.97
FTSE 100 INDEX	GBP	7,248.10	0.23	-0.03	0.43	-1.32	0.65	8.10	1.29	18.28	6.05	14.80
SWISS MARKET INDEX	CHF	8,980.02	0.99	1.17	1.54	3.56	7.16	17.85	8.86	15.42	6.41	17.95
NIKKEI 225	JPY	19,445.70	0.70	1.92	1.30	2.44	2.79	13.49	1.73	20.43	34.50	16.94
HANG SENG INDEX	HKD	24,683.88	-0.05	-0.42	-0.57	0.30	5.82	8.09	11.25	19.68	11.37	12.14
SHANGHAI SE COMPOSITE	CNY	3,127.37	-0.25	-1.56	-1.64	-5.11	-1.18	-0.71	-0.02	3.51	53.06	13.37
S&P BSE SENSEX INDEX	INR	30,126.21	0.77	-0.34	0.03	-0.16	5.97	9.73	12.40	18.47	33.33	17.84
RUSSIAN RTS INDEX $	USD	1,081.22	-1.36	-3.37	-4.02	-7.19	-10.14	10.14	-7.18	16.71	-6.45	6.16
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	BRL	64,862.61	-1.86	0.00	-0.83	0.14	-0.14	5.30	7.70	25.53	21.36	12.06
MSCI WORLD	USD	1,886.48	0.20	0.44	0.44	2.20	4.48	13.64	7.72	14.95	11.64	17.10
MSCI WORLD HEDGED	USD	845.45	0.20	0.39	0.56	1.89	5.19	16.18	7.42	20.28	29.10	-
MSCI WORLD LOCAL	-	1,452.83	0.21	0.50	0.50	1.85	4.43	14.82	6.49	17.50	21.24	17.10
MSCI AC WORLD	USD	457.05	0.12	0.41	0.41	2.08	4.72	13.38	8.35	15.59	10.19	16.42
MSCI EM	USD	980.07	-0.56	0.22	0.22	1.12	6.66	11.36	13.66	21.08	-2.09	12.44
MSCI AC ASIA x JAPAN	USD	598.45	-0.12	0.71	0.71	1.80	9.04	12.21	16.35	22.14	8.85	13.06
MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	USD	2,592.38	-1.87	-0.12	-0.32	-2.83	1.06	5.26	10.75	19.93	-21.87	13.83
MSCI EM Eur, ME & Africa	USD	255.70	-1.47	-1.53	-1.53	1.55	0.56	10.82	4.46	12.34	-18.99	10.76
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY SECTOR												**P/E**
MSCI ENERGY	USD	198.61	-1.43	-1.61	-1.61	-4.21	-7.36	0.16	-9.31	2.35	-32.89	21.75
MSCI MATERIALS	USD	235.09	-0.20	-1.10	-1.10	-0.77	-0.75	10.79	5.95	18.75	-4.66	15.83
MSCI INDUSTRIALS	USD	233.06	0.22	0.48	0.48	3.35	6.37	16.08	9.68	18.46	15.60	17.94
MSCI CONS DISCRETIONARY	USD	215.68	0.03	-0.07	-0.07	3.75	6.41	15.53	9.79	14.96	22.41	17.05
MSCI CONS STAPLES	USD	225.16	0.90	0.44	0.44	1.90	5.93	7.28	8.49	4.46	15.64	20.70
MSCI HEALTH CARE	USD	213.90	0.59	1.01	1.01	3.06	7.30	14.09	10.93	7.68	17.97	16.75
MSCI FINANCIALS	USD	112.31	0.46	1.11	1.11	2.86	2.20	20.44	5.78	23.71	10.23	13.32
MSCI INFO TECH	USD	186.99	0.13	1.21	1.21	4.12	9.35	19.92	15.97	34.04	50.31	19.17
MSCI TELECOMS	USD	68.14	-0.26	-0.66	-0.66	-2.29	-1.15	3.13	-2.00	-4.11	-5.78	14.38
MSCI UTILITY	USD	123.20	0.72	0.67	0.67	0.77	6.91	6.76	7.16	2.87	2.53	16.74
MSCI WORLD REAL ESTATE	USD	198.59	-0.18	-0.11	-0.11	0.61	3.21	4.85	4.47	-0.08	7.87	25.03
HEDGE FUND INDICES												
HFRX GLOBAL HEDGE FUND	USD	1,228.00	-0.18	-0.05	-0.05	0.49	1.13	4.71	2.04	6.55	-0.34	
HFRX EQUAL WEIGHTED	USD	1,240.32	-0.11	-0.04	-0.04	0.47	1.09	4.00	1.90	6.73	2.49	
HFRX GLOBAL EUR	EUR	1,096.38	-0.18	-0.10	-0.10	0.30	0.61	3.58	1.26	4.44	-3.87	

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