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**Modelling Of Investment Strategy In The Eurobond Market In Conditions
Of Financial Instability**

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**Modelling Of Investment Strategy In The Eurobond Market In Conditions
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Abstract

Our task to simulate an investment portfolio, which provided to the investors the target return and target risk level and would consist of two parts: the main part are investment grade eurobonds, and the smaller part are the Russian eurobonds and other emerging markets eurobonds.

Our purpose is to establish the right balance between interests of the investors return and requirements of risk management. Hence, we need to create the default probabilities model in conditions of rising uncertainty and volatility in the world of financial markets.

Our model is based on the following approaches:

1. Two parts of portfolio: the investment grade eurobonds and the emerging markets eurobonds;
2. Minimum time horizon of investments is 1 day, maximum - 7 days;
3. Target return;
4. Minimum return;
5. Maximum level of investment grade credit rating securities in the investors portfolio;
6. Reasonable risk/return ratio;
7. The technique on reduction of level of emerging market securities in the investors portfolio in a case of risk increase.

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1. Introduction

It is considered that now the worst bear markets for the last 50 years. The equity market is very weak and investors look on the bond market. Investors want guaranteed income for their stock portfolios. The problem is the very low return on the USA and Europe bond markets. The emerging markets offer new opportunities for investors. But high enough return is connected to the increased risk. The Russian eurobonds can be attractive for investors in the light of good news from the Standard & Poor's. It is expected increase of the credit rating of Russia up to investment grade in 2004. In this connection it is necessary to evaluate risks of investment in the eurobond market of Russia and other countries, for example of Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Russia showed some impressive figures in 2002 thanks to high oil prices and moderate economic growth (+4,1% GDP). International reserves of Russia increased in 1,3 times (see an Appendix).

According to the Ministry of Finance of Russia, the state debt of Russia has decreased on 9 % of GDP and has made about 40 % of GDP in 2002. The charges of state debt service, on tentative estimations, were reduced in 2002 up to 2,3 % of GDP in comparison with 2,6 % of GDP in 2001. Russia has paid USD 14 billion on a state external debt in 2002, switching USD 6,8 billion of repayment of the basic debt and USD 7,2 billion of payment of percents.

As a result Standard & Poor's upgraded a long-term credit rating of Russia up to BB/stable, Moody's increased a credit rating of Russia up to Ba. Now Russia has credit rating on two steps below investment grade and has the stable forecast on scales of two lead rating agencies.

30-years Russian eurobonds have established historical minimum 8.97% YTM in December 2002. Prices of Russia-30 eurobonds increased in more than 2,5 times since 2000, showing decrease in credit risks. So investors seem Russian eurobonds

very attractive for investments. Some analytics boasted that Russia became the «safe haven» in conditions of financial instability in the world financial markets.

There are some supporting factors of the Russian eurobond market in the foreseeable future. Factors is possible to note are presidential elections and negotiation on the introduction of Russia in WTO. But these events will begin to render influence only in second half of 2003. Certainly race was finished. But if Russia will keep current rates of economic growth, the demand on the Russian eurobonds will remain stable, and yield to maturity will be reduced smoothly.

It is necessary to name increase of a rating of Russia up to an investment level among future positive factors. If the rating agencies will be satisfied of presidential elections in 2004 and condition of economy on that moment, Russia can proceed in investment category in one year.

But payments on the external debt will be the major factor of condition of the Russian eurobonds market. Let's remind, Russia must repay of USD 17,3 billion of it external debt in 2003. It is not expected any surprises. The officials do not get tired to assure, that Russia will repay successfully without new huge borrowings.

The federal budget surplus has appeared above the forecasts also has made 1 % of GDP. The Council of Federation has approved the federal budget on 2003 with incorporated surplus of 0,6 % of GDP. The basic parameters of the federal budget were estimated proceeding of the Urals oil price USD 21,5 per bbl. According to the Russian Minister of Finance Alexei Kudrin, the budget will be kept surplus in case if Urals oil price will not fall lower than USD 20 per bbl.

Re-structuring of the Soviet era debts passes successfully. The first issue of USD 1,28 billion was exchanged on the Russian eurobonds with maturity dates in 2010 and 2030 accordingly.

Hence Russia remains the most attractive segment in the emerging countries eurobond market. Russia can be a «safe haven» for global investors in conditions of financial instability.

2. The Model

Discussion of issues related to the use of investment portfolio models is provided by Ammann, Zimmermann (2001) Barone-Adesi, Giannopoulos, Vosper (1997), Dorsey (2000). We consider the investment portfolio model given in Dorsey (2001), can be taken for a basis of our model. In our opinion, appropriate eurobond portfolio simulation is possible with development of a multi-period, multi-investment portfolio model with the following equation that states the relative contribution that each investment makes to the performance of a eurobond portfolio:

$$\sum_{i=1}^z C_i (1 + r_i)^n = V(1 + r)^n, \sum_{i=1}^z C_i = V,$$

where

C_i = the amount of capital in investment i ;

r_i = the geometric mean (compound annual) return achieved by investment i ;

n = the investment holding period, in days;

z = the number of investments in the portfolio;

V = the total amount of capital invested in the portfolio; and

r = the geometric mean (compound annual) return objective for the entire portfolio.

The value of the portfolio at the end of investment period n equals $V(1 + r)^n$. That consists of initial invested capital, plus gains, minus losses.

Also the return of portfolio for the period T could be estimated:

$$r_T = \frac{V_T}{V_1} - 1,$$

where V_1 — initial invested capital, V_T — invested capital by the end of investment period.

Then we must estimate risks of investments on the eurobond market. According to Murphy, Won (2002) the traditional measures of risk in the context of a single market—duration and, more recently, convexity in both their standard and

option adjusted forms—lose all meaning in the context of an international portfolio. Before a duration number can be sensibly interpreted for a global portfolio, the markets represented in that portfolio would have to be assumed to undergo identical interest rate changes simultaneously. This assumption has not been valid for most markets over any recent period.

We estimated risks of investment portfolio with VaR technique. Known parameters: return, risk/return ratio, tracking error; correlation of asset prices, target return of portfolio (or target risk of portfolio); calculated parameters: asset weights in portfolio, risk of portfolio.

For example, the estimated portfolio consists of four assets:

$$c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + c_4 = 1, c_i - \text{asset weight.}$$

Initial invested capital is u_0 ($u_0 = 100\,000$). The amount of i bonds can be estimated:

$$N_i = \frac{u_0 c_i}{x_i},$$

And the investment portfolio consists of:

$$N_1 x_1 + N_2 x_2 + N_3 x_3 + N_4 x_4 = u_0.$$

The confidence level is 95%. The day eurobond price changes meet Normal distribution. We estimated Normal distribution parameters with following equation:

$$\mu_i = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \Delta x_{ik},$$

$$\sigma_i^2 = \frac{1}{K-1} \sum_{k=1}^K (\Delta x_{ik} - \mu_i)^2,$$

where K – size of data sample.

It is known that α -percentile of Normal distribution, when $\alpha = 5\%$, is $\mu_i - 1.65\sigma_i$, where μ_i и σ_i — parameters of Normal distribution for the asset i .

Hence, VaR with confidence level 95% can be estimated with the following equation:

$$VaR_{95\%} = \mu_i - 1.65\sigma_i = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \Delta x_{ik} - 1.65 \frac{1}{K-1} \sum_{k=1}^K (\Delta x_{ik} - \mu_i)^2.$$

3. Empirical Estimation the Investment Portfolio of Eurobonds

We analyzed following eurobonds: Russia (S&P: BB/stable), Brazil (S&P: B+/negative), Mexico (S&P: BBB-/stable), Turkey (S&P: B-/negative), Poland (S&P: BBB+/stable), Germany (S&P: AAA/stable) and USA (S&P: AAA/stable). We researched 2001-2002 data on these markets.

First of all we made descriptive statistical analysis of recent eurobonds market. We found Russian eurobonds very attractive in the short-term investment horizon. In our opinion, Russia-30 eurobonds had similar risk/return ratios with US Treasuries and Germany Bundesbunds. But long-term risk character – tracking error remains more comparable with Brazil eurobonds than Mexico, for example, thanks high volatility in financial markets (table 1). Tracking error is defined as the standard deviation of the excess returns (the difference between the portfolio returns and the benchmark returns).

Then we estimated VaR for the different eurobond portfolios (table 2-6). We compared eurobonds Russia-30 with Mexico-31, Brazil-30 and Turkey-30. VaR was 1662,831095 when asset weights were equal. Eurobonds Mexico-31 had minimal VaR among others. But investment portfolio with 100% of Mexico-31 isn't optimal for private investor.

One of the portfolios (without Brazil-30) has VaR — 1005,861885, when asset weights are: Brazil-30 — 0%, Mexico-31 — 47%, Russia-30 — 28,9%, Turkey-30 — 24,1%. VaR can be a good technique for reduction of eurobonds with high risks in the portfolio (table 2).

Table 1

Sovereign eurobonds risks estimation

Country	Return in 2002 , %	Annual coupon, %	Std. Dev. 2001-2002	Risk/Return Ratio in 2002, %	Tracking error (US Treasuries as benchmark)
USA-30	8,9688	5,375	4,34	0,484	-
Germany-30	4,8036	5,50	3,20	0,666	-
Mexico-31	7,12	8,30	3,44	0,483	0,45
Russia-30	24,4770	5	14,32	0,585	2,52
Brazil-30	-24,396	12,25	13,57	-	3,85
Turkey-30	10,75	11,88	7,50	0,697	-

Table 2

VaR for different eurobonds portfolios

No.	BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30	VaR, USD
1	1	0	0	0	4242,255562
2	0	1	0	0	1224,518443
3	0	0	1	0	1302,109021
4	0	0	0	1	1417,389680
5	0,25	0,25	0,25	0,25	1662,831095
6	0,5	0,5	0	0	2461,180398
7	0,5	0	0,5	0	2556,491164
8	0,5	0	0	0,5	2535,349880
9	0	0,5	0,5	0	1051,221198
10	0	0,5	0	0,5	1063,892290
11	0	0	0,5	0,5	1195,945193
12	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	1023,812056
13	0,3333333333	0	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	1994,507365
14	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0	0,3333333333	1913,571905
15	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0	1931,326782
16	0,000	0,400	0,400	0,200	1013,532042
17	0,000	0,450	0,350	0,200	1008,123397
18	0,000	0,500	0,300	0,200	1007,592203
19	0,000	0,500	0,270	0,230	1006,735021
20	0,000	0,490	0,280	0,230	1006,289802
21	0,000	0,470	0,300	0,230	1005,978506
22	0,000	0,470	0,290	0,240	1005,864115
23	0,000	0,470	0,289	0,241	1005,861885

Table 3

Eurobond prices correlation matrix

	BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30
BRAGLB30	1	0,450902191	0,548950719	0,455605112
MEXGLB31	0,450902191	1	0,348744307	0,26343659
RUSGLB30	0,548950719	0,348744307	1	0,49531803
TRGLB30	0,455605112	0,26343659	0,49531803	1

Table 4

Eurobond prices co-variation matrix

	BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30
BRAGLB30	2,395771606	0,518671114	0,478729818	0,62587329
MEXGLB31	0,518671114	0,552298699	0,146025449	0,173755368
RUSGLB30	0,478729818	0,146025449	0,317445245	0,24768156
TRGLB30	0,62587329	0,173755368	0,24768156	0,787680776

Table 5

Average day gains of eurobond prices

BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30
-0,06047198	0,032079646	0,101769912	0,080752212

Table 6

Volatility (day changes of eurobond prices)

BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30
1,550116024	0,744266564	0,564255644	0,888825738

We estimated the return for the different eurobonds portfolios (table 7). The investment portfolios, which included Russian eurobonds, had maximum return with minimal VaR.

We also estimated month return of the eurobonds portfolio with the minimal VaR (table 8). The average month return can be estimated as the geometric mean (compound annual) return

$$r = \sqrt[k]{(1+r_1)(1+r_2)\cdot\dots\cdot(1+r_k)} - 1,$$

where k — the number of investment periods ($k = 16$ for the selected portfolio).

Hence, the month return would be $r = 0,014751$.

Table 7

The return of simulated eurobonds portfolios with different asset weights
(Investment horizon 490 days, from 07.08.2001 to 10.12.2002)

BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30	VaR	Return
1	0	0	0	4242,255562	-0,255850
0	1	0	0	1224,518443	0,116935
0	0	1	0	1302,109021	0,754098
0	0	0	1	1417,389680	0,348726
0,25	0,25	0,25	0,25	1662,831095	0,126552
0,5	0,5	0	0	2461,180398	-0,106793
0,5	0	0,5	0	2556,491164	0,044982
0,5	0	0	0,5	2535,349880	-0,040885
0	0,5	0,5	0	1051,221198	0,364815
0	0,5	0	0,5	1063,892290	0,221936
0	0	0,5	0,5	1195,945193	0,524932
0	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	1023,812056	0,359409
0,3333333333	0	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	1994,507365	0,129795
0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0	0,3333333333	1913,571905	0,006521
0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0,3333333333	0	1931,326782	0,067914
0,000	0,400	0,400	0,200	1013,532042	0,361566
0,000	0,450	0,350	0,200	1008,123397	0,332074
0,000	0,500	0,300	0,200	1007,592203	0,303833
0,000	0,500	0,270	0,230	1006,735021	0,295152
0,000	0,490	0,280	0,230	1006,289802	0,300631
0,000	0,470	0,300	0,230	1005,978506	0,311727
0,000	0,470	0,290	0,240	1005,864115	0,308786
0,000	0,470	0,289	0,241	1005,861885	0,308492

Table 8

The return and invested capital for the eurobonds portfolio with asset weights
0; 0,470; 0,289; 0,241

Date	BRAGLB30	MEXGLB31	RUSGLB30	TRGLB30	Sum	Return
12.2002	0	47000	28900	24100	100000	0,008203
11.2002	0	46377,858	28224,76636	24583,7072	99186,33156	0,070036
10.2002	0	44567,99037	27099,37695	21027,0366	92694,40392	0,051624
09.2002	0	43663,05656	25388,78505	19092,20779	88144,0494	-0,015974
08.2002	0	44681,1071	25118,69159	19775,08855	89574,88724	0,054256
07.2002	0	42192,53911	23993,30218	18779,22078	84965,06207	-0,037157
06.2002	0	44058,9651	24893,61371	19291,38135	88243,96016	-0,059027
05.2002	0	45246,69073	25883,95639	22648,87839	93779,52551	-0,011915
04.2002	0	46151,62455	25028,66044	23730,10626	94910,39124	0,033798
03.2002	0	45020,45728	23768,2243	23018,77214	91807,45372	-0,014315
02.2002	0	46434,41637	23858,25545	22848,05195	93140,72377	0,040013
01.2002	0	44850,78219	22057,6324	22648,87839	89557,29298	0,039277
12.2001	0	43663,05656	20572,11838	21937,54427	86172,71921	0,033636
11.2001	0	43323,70638	19131,61994	20913,22314	83368,54946	0,045882
10.2001	0	42984,3562	17150,93458	19575,91499	79711,20577	0,064472
09.2001	0	40043,3213	16430,68536	18409,32704	74883,33369	-0,053463
08.2001	0	43097,47292	17150,93458	18864,58087	79112,98838	

Conclusion

We consider Russian eurobonds good investment object with some parameters similar to the eurobonds with investment grade credit rating. So expectations of increasing of Russia's credit rating up to the investment grade are proved. We didn't provide deep macroeconomic analysis of the Russian and world economy. Our task is only simulation of short-term portfolio for the private investors. We consider VaR technique good technique for reduction of low quality eurobonds in the investment portfolio.

Early Russian eurobonds could be comparing with Brazil eurobonds. We didn't find significant correlation between Russian and Brazil markets. Some analysts have hurried to compare Russian eurobonds with Mexican bonds. But we consider Russian eurobonds place between Mexico and Turkey.

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Table 1

International reserves of Russia in 2002, (USD, mln.)

	Gold and foreign currency	Include:				
		Foreign currency reserves	Include:			Gold
			Foreign currency	SDR	Reserve position in IMF	
01.01.02	36 622	32 542	32 538	3	1	4 080
01.02.02	36 408	32 317	32 312	3	1	4 091
01.03.02	36 860	32 768	32 763	4	1	4 092
01.04.02	37 295	33 179	33 174	4	1	4 116
01.05.02	39 155	35 024	35 019	4	1	4 131
01.06.02	42 227	38 496	38 489	5	1	3 731
01.07.02	43 579	39 848	39 838	8	2	3 731
01.08.02	43 294	39 564	39 554	8	2	3 731
01.09.02	44 327	40 596	40 587	8	2	3 731
01.10.02	45 619	41 887	41 878	8	2	3 732
01.11.02	46 767	43 034	43 025	8	2	3 733
01.12.02	48 205	44 470	44 467	1	2	3 735
01.01.03	47 792	44 052	44 050	1	2	3 739

Source: Central Bank of Russia

Standard deviation of eurobonds returns, 2000-2002

	Valid N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std. Dev.
P_USA30	96	99,81722	93,28125	110,8594	4,340028
Y_USA30	96	5,395115	4,679	5,854	0,292351
P_USA10	70	102,6205	96,6875	110,6406	3,76079
Y_USA10	70	4,651629	3,59	5,456	0,505642
P_RUS30	147	50,87126	31,45	80,168	14,3231
Y_RUS30	147	14,45195	8,924	19,763	3,133295
P_RUS10	145	79,40065	55,719	107,513	15,25218
Y_RUS10	145	12,42563	6,927	18,151	3,183985
P_BRA30	146	82,22533	45,861	98,944	13,57992
Y_BRA30	146	15,46658	12,382	26,716	3,318951
P_BRA12	48	71,45365	45,748	94,067	16,7094
P_MEX31	70	98,10497	88,39	103,504	3,446523
Y_MEX31	70	8,483943	7,985	9,472	0,333329
P_MEX12	100	103,3794	96,905	110,42	3,404054
Y_MEX12	100	7,83376	6,688	8,849	0,5433
P_POL12	66	107,9754	105	111,875	1,620069
P_TUR10	147	94,625	83,375	107,5	6,199263
P_TUR30	147	90,91412	78,5	109,25	7,505788

Source: authors estimation

P – price, last, close.

Y – yield to maturity, average

Table 3

Eurobonds market prices correlation, 2000-2002

	P_USA30	P_USA10	P_GER30	P_GER10	P_RUS30	P_RUS10	P_BRA30	P_BRA12	P_MEX31	P_MEX12	P_POL12	P_TUR10	P_TUR30
P_USA30	1	0,975559	0,950435	0,976774	0,489422	0,538065	-0,78222	-0,77834	-0,28879	0,347559	0,617089	0,826096	0,825033
P_USA10	0,975559	1	0,925778	0,971389	0,590703	0,647734	-0,87176	-0,87191	-0,37649	0,340825	0,610133	0,905863	0,898752
P_GER30	0,950435	0,925778	1	0,968957	0,334022	0,397487	-0,79597	-0,79087	-0,40097	0,167286	0,764407	0,73689	0,725299
P_GER10	0,976774	0,971389	0,968957	1	0,508943	0,564447	-0,80139	-0,80106	-0,30403	0,347286	0,668769	0,838663	0,843521
P_RUS30	0,489422	0,590703	0,334022	0,508943	1	0,985737	-0,54851	-0,56751	0,063187	0,704465	0,029741	0,826921	0,847035
P_RUS10	0,538065	0,647734	0,397487	0,564447	0,985737	1	-0,62006	-0,64061	-0,0112	0,67035	0,100401	0,869237	0,886318
P_BRA30	-0,78222	-0,87176	-0,79597	-0,80139	-0,54851	-0,62006	1	0,993601	0,688815	-0,01752	-0,62751	-0,87393	-0,83161
P_BRA12	-0,77834	-0,87191	-0,79087	-0,80106	-0,56751	-0,64061	0,993601	1	0,674671	-0,04099	-0,62876	-0,88145	-0,83753
P_MEX31	-0,28879	-0,37649	-0,40097	-0,30403	0,063187	-0,0112	0,688815	0,674671	1	0,665194	-0,50842	-0,32539	-0,25264
P_MEX12	0,347559	0,340825	0,167286	0,347286	0,704465	0,67035	-0,01752	-0,04099	0,665194	1	-0,13624	0,447345	0,51667
P_POL12	0,617089	0,610133	0,764407	0,668769	0,029741	0,100401	-0,62751	-0,62876	-0,50842	-0,13624	1	0,400424	0,376828
P_TUR10	0,826096	0,905863	0,73689	0,838663	0,826921	0,869237	-0,87393	-0,88145	-0,32539	0,447345	0,400424	1	0,992159
P_TUR30	0,825033	0,898752	0,725299	0,843521	0,847035	0,886318	-0,83161	-0,83753	-0,25264	0,51667	0,376828	0,992159	1

P_USA30 – US Treasures-30, P_USA10 – US Treasures-10, P_GER30 – Bundesbunds-30, P_GER10 – Bundesbunds-10, P_RUS30 – Russia-30, P_RUS10, Russia-10, P_BRA30 – Brazil – 30, P_BRA12 – Brazil-12, P_MEX31 – Mexico-31, P_MEX12 – Mexico-12, P_POL12 – Poland-12, P_TUR10 – Turkey-10, P_TUR30 – Turkey-30.