# FX Alpha

# Tactically short EUR/USD

## Key takeaways

- We buy a 2-week EURUSD put spread to tactically hedge our medium-term bullish EURUSD view.
- Range of outcomes ahead of 2nd April US tariff announcement is wide, but we see risks EURUSD consolidation amid uncertainty.
- The trade: buy 2-week 1.0850/1.0750 EURUSD put spread, 31.5 pip (spot 1.0885, expiry Apr 2, vol refs 8.516 and 8.413)

## The trade

We buy 2-week 1.0850/1.0750 strike EURUSD put spread for 31.5 pip (spot ref 1.0885, expiry Apr 2 2025, vol refs 8.516 and 8.413).

We want to "hedge" our structurally bullish EURUSD view (see our report, <u>Global FX</u> <u>Weekly: New EUR era 7 Mar '25</u>) and position ahead of the April 2<sup>nd</sup> tariffs announcements.

The trade covers both this afternoon's FOMC meeting, the upcoming April 2<sup>nd</sup> tariff announcement date, and what we expect to be an active month-end for FX (see below). While the range of announced tariff outcomes is wide, there is a risk the administration comes with an aggressive proposal even if the end game remains a more negotiated outcome. Given how far and fast EURUSD has moved this month and the slightly long positioning from very short at the start of the year (see our report, <u>LCBF 17 Mar '25</u>), we would expect some pullback going into this risk event. In the near term, as noted in our report, <u>Liquid Insight: Watching, waiting, not commiserating 17 March 2025</u>, we see a risk of the Fed sounding hawkish today, amid sticky inflation and resilient hard data.

**Risks to this trade:** tariffs announcements getting postponed, investors positioning in reaction to rather than anticipation of them, a dovish Fed, and potentially softer US data.

#### Quant signal see near-term bullish retracement for USD

Historically following sharp weekly USD selloffs like we saw at the start of March, a downtrend would form at a more medium-term 3-months horizon. However, we believe the USD is more likely to face a short-term bullish retracement before more downside (see our report, <u>FX Quant Insight, 10 March 2025</u>). Our latest quant signals still shows a bullish bias for the USD (see our report, <u>FX Quant Insight 17 March 2025</u>), driven by persistent equity risk-off and expectation for trend-followers to tactically unwind short USD positions before month-end. Given diverging EU-US equity directions and stronger EURUSD month-to-date, month-end rebalancing is likely to support the USD, similar to the flows we saw in February.

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Currency Strategy Global

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For a list of open trade recommendations and trade recommendations closed in the last 12 months, please see our Global FX Weekly report (<u>Global FX weekly:</u> <u>Peak US exceptionalism and EU</u> <u>reforms 14 March 2025</u>).

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