

# EUROPEAN WINDOW

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# WINDOW COMMENTARY

#### **FLAT PRICE**

The Mar'25 Brent futures contract has seen steady support this afternoon, increasing from around \$76.40/bbl at 1200 GMT up to \$77.20/bbl at 1725 GMT (time of writing). In the news today, Saudi Arabia's crude oil supply is set to decline in February m/m, with Saudi Aramco projected to ship about 43.5mb of crude oil to China, down from January's 46mb. China's state majors CNOOC and PetroChina are expected to lift less crude in February while Aramco is set to increase its supply to Sinopec and Sinochem, according to a Reuters report. In other news, after BP was hired as a technical service provider for India's largest oifield, Mumbai High, the British major stated that crude oil output at the offshore field could be increased by 44% from a baseline production of 45.47 million metric tonnes to 65.41 over the ten-year contract period. According to India's ONGC, the increase is expected to be visible from FY'26 with full scale visibility expected from FY'28. Finally, in the leadup to President-elect Trump's inauguration on 20 January, the US Senate energy committee will hold nomination hearings for energy roles on Tuesday and Wednesday (14-15 Jan) next week, as per Reuters. The committee will hold a hearing for Doug Burgum for secretary of the interior and Chris Wright for energy secretary, two candidates who are both expected to carry out Trump's policies to boost production of oil and gas. At the time of writing, the Mar/Apr'25 and Mar/Sep'25 Brent futures spreads stand at \$0.67/bbl and \$2.82/bbl, respectively.

#### CRUDE

This afternoon in Dated, we saw the Feb DFL bid up to \$0.67/bbl and the Bal-Jan DFL up to \$).91/bbl with bank buying. The Q2'25 DFL also saw continued strength and traded up to \$0..32/bbl. In structures, we saw the 20-31 Jan Cal Feb roll offered down to \$0.69/bbl and the 3-7 Feb Cal Feb roll strengthened to \$0.40/bbl pre-window. In the physical window, we saw Gunvor come in offering Forties quite aggressively with a refiner buying the Midland, and the phys diff traded down around 10c. In paper, we saw the front of the curve go more offered with 13-17 Jan 1w roll offered down to \$0.34/bbl and 20-24 Jan 1w fly trading at flat. CFDs, however, were supported with the 13-17 Jan CFD trading at \$0.95/bbl and the 3-7 Feb CFD up to \$0.97/bbl. We also saw the 20-24 Jan CFD trade at \$0.80/bbl and the 27-31 Jan CFD at \$0.60/bbl. Post-window, we saw spreads continue to rally and the Feb DFL traded up to \$0.68/bbl and the March DFL up to \$0.45/bbl. The Bal-Jan DFL as offered down to \$0.86/bbl. We also saw the 10-14 Feb Cal Feb roll trade down to \$0.11/bbl.

This afternoon was quiet in Brent/Dubai with rangebound trading. Feb Brent/Dubai traded between \$0.05/bbl to \$0.10/bbl. There was continued backend quarterly selling of Brent/Dubai, with trade houses on the offer. Q2'25, Q3'25 and Q4'25 traded at \$0.52/bbl, \$0.67/bbl, and \$0.77/bbl, respectively. There was some Mar EFS buying interes, with a major on the bid side. There was also some small box buying, with some Feb/Mar and Feb/Apr trading at -\$0.20/bbl and -\$0.37/bbl, respectively.

#### FUEL

In HSFO, Chinese arbers were buyers of Mar and Apr 380 flat price, but turned sellers on higher crude, this supported the front 380 crack. 380 spreads in Feb/Mar saw buying from Chinese players at \$3.50/mt, and structure down the curve remained stable with Mar/Apr trading at \$3.75/mt. 380 E/W was strong this afternoon due to the strength in 380 and this, combined with Q3'25 380 E/W being bid from \$5.50/mt to \$6/mt, further supported the front E/W from \$14.75/mt to \$15.50/mt. During the window, we saw Feb E/W soften to \$15.25/mt as barge cracks saw buy-side interest in Q4'25, bid to -\$10.50/bbl. This supported the front 3.5% barge crack from -\$7.90/bbl to -\$7.60/bbl, before softening to -\$7.80/bbl post-window due to selling in the outright crack.

In VLSFO, Chinese arbers were buyers of Apr Sing 0.5 flat price in small size. We saw selling by banks in Bal-Jan 0.5 Sing crack from \$10.75/bbl to \$10.60/bbl, which put pressure on Feb Sing crack as we saw outright selling from \$10.70/bbl to \$10.35/bbl. Sing structure in the front was therefore a touch more offered, with Feb/Mar trading from \$5/mt to \$4.75/mt. In Euro, the front crack remained stable for the majority of the afternoon but traded down from \$4.80/bbl to \$4.70/bbl due to MOC hedging. Front Euro spreads saw some sell-side interest, with Feb/Mar at \$6.25/mt and Mar/Apr at \$4.75/mt.

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#### DISTILLATES

This afternoon in distillates, there was buying in the front Sing spreads as the Feb/Mar and Mar/Apr were lifted to \$0.46/bbl and \$0.43/bbl, respectively, as the E/W continued to come off down the curve, the Feb to -\$18.75/mt as the Q3'25 was sold down to -\$15.75/mt. The prompt regrade was hit down on screen to -\$1.25/bbl where it was bid back up to -\$1.18/bbl as the selling in Q3'25 continued, trading down to lows of -0.68/bbl.

ICE gasoil spreads rallied into the window, the Jan/Jun to \$18.75/mt, as did the cracks, the Q1'25 to 18.10/bbl. The NWE jet diffs continued to tick higher the Feb to \$37.00/mt as the Cal'26 saw interest, trading at \$51.25/mt. Heating oil spreads rallied at the front of the curve, as did the HOGOs, the Q1'25 trading at 11.2 c/gal.

#### GASOLINE

This afternoon in gasoline, we saw flat price trade at the end of the window at \$8.22/bbl on a crack equivalent with matching offered. Cracks were initially weak in the afternoon with the front crack trading at lows of \$8.20/bbl before finding buying as RBBRs strengthened for the crack to trade at highs of \$8.45/bbl before the window. Spreads in the front were weaker with Feb/Mar trading at lows of -\$7.75/mt but recovering to trade at -\$7.25/mt end of window and Mar/Apr valued down to -\$37/mt before trading at -\$36.5/mt during the window, the summer spreads were supported with Apr/Sep trading at \$42.75/mt but there was pressure from selling on the Q2/Q3'25 crack roll at \$2.05/bbl. There was persistent selling in the Apr arb in the window at 13.35c/gal and Q2'25 at 12.35c/gal and the front arb was valued at 4.2c/gal post-window. RBBRs were initially weak on US open with Mar trading at lows of \$9.15/bbl, but into the window buying came in for the RBBR to trade at highs of \$9.60/bbl before softening to trade rangebound around \$9.45/bbl. E/W weakened as RBBRs came off with the front valued at -\$1.80/bbl into the window while eastern cracks saw limited action but Mar traded at \$7/bbl in the window.

#### NAPHTHA

This afternoon in naphtha, we saw Feb NWE flat price valued at \$634.50/mt at the end of the window on a -\$5.10/bbl crack equivalent. NWE cracks were well offered throughout the afternoon as they traded from -\$4.25/bbl early afternoon to -\$5.10/bbl end-window and Q2'25 cracks weakened from -\$4.70/bbl to -\$5/bbl. Spreads saw selling on weaker front cracks as Feb/Mar came off from \$3.50/mt to \$2/mt and Mar/Apr weakened to \$5/mt from \$5.75/mt. Feb E/W traded from \$20/mt to \$21.50/mt before coming off in the window to \$20.75/mt as Cal'26 E/W saw bank buying at \$15.25/mt with Eastern cracks seeing no trading activity. Feb/Mar MOPJ also weakened from \$5.50/mt to \$4.75/mt and Mar/Apr traded down to \$5.50/mt.

#### NGLS

This afternoon in NGLs, LST opened weaker with Feb trading around 85c/gal then became stronger on a crude percentage basis with prompt spreads broadly unchanged. In spreads, Feb/Mar was rangebound at 3c/gal-3.125c/gal and Mar/Apr rangebound between 3.25c/gal-3.5c/gal. Arbs opened weaker with Feb and Mar trading at -\$175/mt and -\$173/mt, respectively; as the afternoon progressed arbs gained back strength owing to crude with Feb trading to -\$171.5/mt and 2H trading up to -\$170/mt. FEI/CP weakened with Feb and Mar trading down to -\$10/mt and -\$14/mt, respectively; while E/W was broadly unchanged with Feb implied slightly higher at \$54.5/mt and Q3'25 trading at \$64.5/mt. Butane also weakened with C4/C3 trading down to 23.75c/gal, while spreads strengthened. In the prompt, we saw Feb/Mar and Feb/Apr trade up to 8.25c/gal and 13.125c/gal, respectively.

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