

ECB Is Said to Weigh Policy Shift With Possibility of 2022 Hike
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By Jana Randow and Carolynn Look

(Bloomberg) -- European Central Bank policy makers can envisage recalibrating their outlined policy path in March, according to officials familiar with their thinking.

The Governing Council agreed on Thursday that it's sensible not to exclude the possibility of an interest-rate hike this year, said the people, who asked not to be identified because their discussions are private.

An end of bond-buying under the ECB's regular program, the APP, is possible as early as the third quarter, the officials said. No decisions have been taken.

An ECB spokesman declined to comment.

ECB President Christine Lagarde refused to repeat at her press conference that a rate increase was very unlikely this year, highlighting more persistent-than-expected inflation pressures in the 19-nation bloc. Investors brought forward bets on a liftoff while she spoke.

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To contact the reporters on this story:

Jana Randow in Frankfurt at jrandow@bloomberg.net;

Carolynn Look in Frankfurt at clook4@bloomberg.net

To contact the editors responsible for this story:

Zoe Schneeweiss at zschneeweiss@bloomberg.net;

Alaa Shahine at asalha@bloomberg.net

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