

**Today, July 20, 11:45 GMT:** The **European Central Bank interest rate** decision is due later this morning. It is expected that the ECB will leave interest rates untouched with many experts expecting the ECB to announce plans to reduce its bond-buying program in September. The ECB President Mario Draghi's previous speech had been interpreted as a sign that the central bank was more optimistic about the economy and suggested that tapering could start sooner than expected, however since the June speech, the ECB has been tried to reduce expectations to prevent unwanted tightening of conditions. In the markets, European shares extended gains in early trading on Thursday on the back of active global markets and this, just hours ahead of a highly important policy meeting at the European central bank. STOXX 600 rose 0.3 percent after major U.S. and Asian stock indexes closed Wednesday at record highs as the dotcom's impressed. **Source:** Yadix Forex Broker