

## **BALANCED STRATEGY FUND**

52.10

40.30

SHARE CLASS A (ACCUMULATOR) - FACT SHEET Factsheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Month end NAV as at 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Asset Class** 

Fixed Income

Equity

## **Investment Objective and Policies**

The Fund aims to achieve long-term capital growth by investing in a diversified portfolio of collective investment schemes. The Investment Manager ("We") invest in collective investment schemes ("CIS") (including UCITS, exchange-traded funds and other collective investment undertakings) that invest in a broad range of assets, including debt and equity securities. In instances, this may involve investing in CISs that are managed by the Investment Manager. The Investment Manager ("We") aims to build a diversified portfolio spread across several industries and sectors. The Fund is actively managed, not managed by reference to any index.

Minimum Initial Investment €5,000

### Sustainability

The Fund is classified under Article 6 of the SFDR meaning that the investments underlying this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

#### **Fund Details**

ISIN	MT7000030664
Bloomberg Ticker	CCPBSCA MV

## Charges

Entry Charge	Up to 2.5%
Exit Charge	None
Total Expense Ratio	2.50%
Currency fluctuations may increase	e/decrease costs.

## **Risk and Reward Profile**

This section should be read in conjuction with the KIID			
Higher Risk			
Potentially higher reward			

#### **Portfolio Statistics**

Total Net Assets (in €mns)	4.71
Month end NAV in EUR	88.65
Number of Holdings	23
% of Top 10 Holdings	63.5

Currency Allocation	%	Asset Allocation	%
EUR	95.40	Fund	87.20
USD	4.60	Cash	7.70
GBP	0.00	ETF	5.10

Geographic Allocation	%	
European Region	39.90	
Global	23.60	
International	15.60	
U.S.	11.90	
China	1.40	

Top Holdings		SRRI	%
UBS (Lux) Bond F	und - Euro High Yield	4	11.3
CC Funds SICAV p	olc - High Income Bond Fund	4	10.0
Fundsmith SICAV	- Equity Fund	5	7.8
Invesco Pan Euro	pean Equity Fund	6	6.6
Nordea 1 - Europ	ean High Yield Bond Fund	4	6.1
FTGF ClearBridge	US Large Cap Growth Fund	6	5.9
Robeco BP US La	rge Cap Equities	5	4.6
Comgest Growth	plc - Europe Opportunities	6	4.2
UBS Lux Equity F	und - European Shares	6	3.5
BlackRock Global	High Yield Bond Fund	4	3.5

# **Historical Performance to Date \***



Source: Calamatta Cuschieri Investment Management Ltd.

Performance History Past performance does not predict future returns					
Calendar Year Performance	YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019
Share Class A - Total Return**	2.73	-13.13	-0.67	N/A	N/A
Total Return	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month
Share Class A - Total Return**	1.07	-0.58	4.75	3.87	-2.88

<sup>\*</sup> The Accumulator Share Class (Class A) was launched on 3 November 2021

<sup>\*\*</sup> Returns quoted net of TER. Entry and exit charges may reduce returns for investors.

#### Introduction

Market Environment and Performance

#### Fund Performance

Market and Investment Outlook

April brought more calm into markets as earnings season expectations managed to divert the attention focused recently on US banks. This did not equate with the recent turmoil when First Republic Bank ended up being purchased by JP Morgan. Clearly the stress has been insulated within the smaller regional banks as these are more suspicious to losing deposits and consequently higher future funding costs. Major banks as well as the other corporates have been protected by an earnings season, being not impressive, but clearly better than what was feared. Whether this is the last shine from the corporate sector before an economic slowdown remains to be seen, but for the time being market participants still show faith in equity markets. The real economy remained on a strong foothold in developed markets, although some GDP numbers for the first quarter of the year have disappointed. The Chinese economy rebound continued to be subdued while there is a clear U-turn on behalf of Communist authorities as regards the attitude towards private capital. Energy prices have continued their recent down trend which spreads confusion regarding where the global economy is heading. Overall it feels like a no man's land in terms of macro fundamentals whereby optimism equates with an economic soft landing or a shallow recession. Market opinion is clearly divided in this regard and consequently markets remain jittery.

From the monetary front, monetary authorities have not changed tack in terms of market signalling, as FED and the ECB continued pointing out to increasing rate hikes expected for the near future. Although inflation pressures have recently abated and the trend clearly points downward monthly core levels still remain elevated for central bankers' taste, therefore market participants hints toward expectations on fast-approaching monetary easing measures continue looking far-fetched. It is rather the credit tightening from financial institutions which became recently apparent which is expected to do the trick in terms of cooling off labour markets and services pricing pressures.

Equity markets are still evolving in a world of their own whereby on very thin breath market indexes continued trending marginally higher. Mega caps were the main growth drivers for markets year to date on both sides of the Atlantic and as such these have gotten even bigger weight in indexes, which distorts the overall market's performance. Speaking of mega caps' earnings, although managing to beat market expectations, on a nominal basis most of them do show decreasing profits compared to last year, which make current valuations looking even more expensive than at the height of the covid19 pandemic rally in 2021. In the banking sector, one significant change is European institutions outperforming their US peers, which in itself is a novelty for the post-GCF world. This is but one of the many twists 2023 has brought up front, which makes it one of the most challenging years for asset managers worldwide.

Forward looking indicators expanded in Europe at the fastest pace in 11 months, driven solely by the services sector. Euro-area manufacturing PMI reading (45.8 v a previous month of 47.3) remained in contractionary territory, while the services PMI (reading 56.2 v previous reading of 55.0) advanced, with Italy and Spain being the main drivers, aided by the tourism industry and the travel boom. Inflationary pressures have disappointed validating the hawkish ECB stance, as core inflation which excludes transitory or temporary price volatility edged marginally lower in April to 5.6% from 5.7% level in the previous month.

In the U.S. aggregate business activity continue to rebound for a third consecutive month. Notably, composite PMI rose sharply from March's reading (to 53.4 from 52.3) following a solid upturn in private sector business activity. Manufacturing PMI (reading of 50.2) pointed to a first marginal expansion in factory activity. Services PMI reading increased to 53.6 from 52.6 last month, the biggest expansion in service output in a year. Annual inflation rate in the US slowed to 4.9%, well down from its 9.1% peak in June 2022. Month-on-month, core consumer prices remained stable.

Equity markets had a balanced performance during the month torn between the corporate earnings which overall managed to exceed expectations and the macro indicators which continued showing an economic growth slowdown. Marginal signs of sector rotation from growth to value have been seen pointing to a certain uneasiness form market participant as regards the sustainability of the year to date market rally. US markets edged higher helped by resilient earnings from mega caps and still healthy labour markets and consumer sentiment. Their European peers continued their unexpected good performance as the economy continues outperforming analysts' expectations, while emerging markets were conditioned by the less than impressive recovery in the Chinese

economy. The S&P 500 index gained 1.75% helped by strong earnings reports from major components of the index, such as Microsoft and Alphabet. In Europe, the EuroStoxx50 and the DAX gained 1.72% and 2.58% respectively, driven by strong first quarter sales reports and yearly dividend payouts approaching.

The fixed-income asset class continues to be highly conditioned by the pronounced higher rates which continued to trigger remarkable volatility. European and US investment grade posted positive returns, returning c. 0.69% and 0.82% respectively. The more speculative segment too headed higher.

Performance for the month of April proved positive, noting a 1.07% gain for the CC Balanced Strategy Fund – in line with the moves witnessed across both equity and credit markets at large during such period.

Going forward, the Manager is of the view that material decreases in inflation levels globally and the messaging tone from central bankers do point to a fast approaching end of the monetary tightening cycle. From a credit point the Manger believes that the current underlying fixed income exposures within the fund reflect the long-term view and thus the recent volatility is a short-term pain rather than long term. Contrary the Manager believes that a recovery pace is in course as experienced in the initial days of May.

From the equity front, the Manager believes that the gap between fundamentals and equity markets continues to widen as we see the same changing sentiment towards a more bullish stance. Although this comes at odds with its own convictions, the Manager is slowly building a more benevolent approach on equity returns expectations, although coming from a very low base. The same attitude of higher focus to cyclical sectors should be expected while cash levels are deemed appropriate at the prevailing market valuation metrics.

### Important Information

This is a marketing communication prepared for information purposes and should not be interpreted as investment advice nor to constitute an offer or an invitation by CCIM to any person to buy or sell units in the UCITS fund. Please refer to the Prospectus of the UCITS and any Offering Supplement thereto and to the Key Investor Information Document before making any final investment decisions which may be obtained from www.ccfunds.com.mt or from the below address Investors are advised that an investment in the fund relates to the acquisition of units in the UCITS fund, and not in any of the underlying assets owned by the UCITS. CC Funds SICAV p.l.c. is licensed as a Collective Investment Scheme by the Malta Financial Services Act and qualifies as a 'Maltese' UCITS. Calamatta Cuschieri Investment Management Limited ("CCIM") is licensed to conduct Investment Services in Malta by the Malta Financial Services Authority under the Investment Services Act.

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