

Investment Objective and Policies

The Fund seeks to provide stable, long-term capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of local and international bonds, equities and other income-generating assets. The Investment Manager shall diversify the assets of the Fund among different assets classes. The manager may invest in both Investment Grade and High Yield bonds rated at the time of investment at least "B-" by S&P, or in bonds determined to be of comparable quality, provided that the Fund may invest up to 10% in non-rated bonds, whilst maintain an exposure to direct rated bonds of at least 25% of the value of the Fund. Investments in equities may include but are not limited to dividend-paying securities, equities, exchange traded funds as well as through the use of Collective Investment Schemes. The Fund is actively managed, not managed by reference to any index.

Fund Type

UCITS

Minimum Initial Investment

€2,500

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

MT7000023891

Bloomberg Ticker

CCGBIFB MV

Charges

Entry Charge

Up to 2.5%

Exit Charge

None

Total Expense Ratio

2.36%

Currency fluctuations may increase/decrease costs.

Risk and Reward Profile

This section should be read in conjunction with the KID

Lower Risk

Higher Risk

Potentially lower reward

Potentially higher reward

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Portfolio Statistics

Total Net Assets (in €mns)

14.6

Month end NAV in EUR

11.27

Number of Holdings

82

% of Top 10 Holdings

18.5

Current Yield

Last 12-m Distrib. Yield (%)

2.00

Country Allocation¹

USA	42.1
Malta	10.5
France	10.2
Germany	5.7
Great Britain	4.9
Luxembourg	4.3
Netherlands	3.8
Brazil	3.7
China	1.5
Denmark	1.4

¹ including exposures to ETFs

By Credit Rating²

AAA to BBB-	16.1
BB+ to BB-	18.6
B+ to B-	2.3
CCC+ to CCC	0.0
Not Rated	7.5

² excluding exposures to ETFs

Currency Allocation

EUR	58.5
USD	41.2
GBP	0.3

Asset Allocation¹

Cash	7.3
Bonds	47.5
Equities	45.1

Top 10 Exposures

Uber Technologies Inc	2.2
Salesforce Inc	2.1
Mercadolibre Inc	1.9
Amazon.com Inc	1.9
Booking Holdings Inc	1.8
iShares Euro High Yield Corp	1.8
Alphabet Inc	1.7
3.5% Govt of France 2033	1.7
Fiserv Inc	1.7
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co	1.7

Historical Performance to Date**



Source: Calamatta Cuschieri Investment Management Ltd.

Sector Breakdown

Communications	22.6
Financial	14.5
Consumer, Non-cyclical	10.8
Industrial	9.9
Technology	9.6
ETFs	9.2
Diversified	4.3
Sovereign	4.3
Basic Materials	3.5
Energy	3.0
Healthcare	1.0

Performance History**

Past performance does not predict future returns

Calendar Year Performance	YTD	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Annualised Since Inception***
Total Return****	-3.34	8.66	10.58	-12.92	12.81	2.52	4.05

Calendar Year Performance	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month
Total Return****	-1.23	-5.69	-1.79	-1.11	2.14

* Data in the chart does not include any dividends distributed since the Fund was launched on 19 November 2018.

** Performance figures are calculated using the Value Added Monthly Index "VAMI" principle. The VAMI calculates the total return gained by an investor from reinvestment of any dividends and additional interest gained through compounding.

*** The Distributor Share Class (Class B) was launched on 19 November 2018. The Annualised rate is an indication of the average growth of the Fund over one year. The value of the investment and the income yield derived from the investment, if any, may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance, nor a reliable guide to future performance. Hence returns may not be achieved and you may lose all or part of your investment in the Fund. Currency fluctuations may affect the value of investments and any derived income.

**** Returns quoted net of TER. Entry and exit charges may reduce returns for investors.

Introduction

April has confirmed once again it is that period of the year when major events have the highest statistical probability of happening. The tariffs announced by the Trump administration on the second day of the month were indeed nothing short of spectacular, exceeding by a wide margin in both scope and size any market forecast. A sudden equity market collapse followed by steep increases in the odds of a global economic recession ensued and the sweet promises of a US Golden Age have been forgotten on the spot making room for a new mantra – “Sell America!” Just one week of financial markets mayhem (and, off the record, bond vigilantes’ actions) have convinced the bold US President to make a saving face pirouette enabling a 90-day pause and a linear cut in tariffs to make room for individual trade deals negotiations. Markets came back to life. The single elephant in the room – the China – US commercial feud – has remained in place for the time being, but markets are convinced that this too will manage to find a friendlier footing sooner rather than later. The US dollar weakened materially, oil prices slipped toward the \$60 level and the 10-year US Treasuries flirted again with the 4.5% level sending economic forecasts and market returns expectations alike in the realm of the unknown. Frankly speaking, financial markets felt like have already had enough, so much that monetary policies or earnings seasons happened with no apparent impact. Now, as just one third of the calendar year passed, markets feel blindsided as regards what the remainder of the year will bring about. While overall worldwide structural changes are happening under our own eyes in terms of geopolitics, manufacturing supply chains or currency flows, markets have not managed yet to figure out the ultimate direction such changes will lead to. Therefore, the best option investors have at this point is keeping alert, flexible in convictions and ready for U-turns, just like this US administration is behaving.

From the monetary front, the FOMC held no meeting during the month, while various public speeches from its members reflected a cautious approach amid economic uncertainties. While the labour market still looked solid, it was the persistent inflation concerns stemming from trade tensions that add complexity to the economic outlook. Overall, they emphasized the need for more data to assess the long-term impact of the said trade policies. In Europe, the ECB reduced its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.25%, marking the seventh cut within a year, a decision aimed to mitigate the economic impact of US tariffs and global uncertainties. The officials emphasized the need for policy agility, reaffirming its commitment to past stimulus measures, including quantitative easing and forward guidance, while acknowledging the need for cautious application of these tools in the future.

April has been a testament of what supported equity markets since the Covid pandemic in spite of analyst expectations – the “buy the dip” mentality. After the Liberation Day announcement has ignited a 15% global market collapse in less than a trading week, the subsequent 90-day delay announcement triggered a stunning recovery in stock prices in the following weeks, both these events causing massive shifts of wealth. This was reminiscent of other episodes of market sell-out speedy recoveries seen recently such as March 2020, February 2022 or August 2024. Usually the retail segment, a growing force in the current market ecosystem, has been considered the deciding factor in such market turnarounds, while its investing behaviour has slowly transitioned from mere trend followers to outright market contrarians. This has happened as a larger part of institutional market participants have become passive investors forced to align their allocations to the most recent market moves. A smaller retail sub-segment that have become crucial in the last years are the ultra-high and high net worth investors which are willing to become liquidity providers in moments of heightened market volatility. We have to accept the fact that markets have gone through structural changes since the pandemic. This makes much more irrelevant comparisons with historical long-term valuation averages, but not with long term statistical returns. Markets are effectively moving much faster these days than they used to.

Market Environment and Performance

In the Euro area economic growth outperformed expectations, supported by strength in the Southern economies. The momentum carried into April, with monthly Composite PMI remaining in expansionary territory, albeit easing slightly to 50.4 from 50.9 in March. Inflation across the bloc remained stable, bolstering confidence that the disinflation process remains on track toward the ECB’s 2% medium-term target. Headline inflation remained constant at 2.2%, while core inflation increased to 2.7% from the 2.6% record in March.

Concerns about potential headwinds facing the US economy were validated as it contracted in the first quarter by 0.3%, a first decline since 2022. Leading indicators also pointed to a cooling in business activity, with April’s Composite PMI recording a decrease to 50.6, well below the March level of 53.5, indicating the slowest expansion in the private sector since September 2023. While new business activity continued to grow, it did so modestly, while business confidence declined.

Global equity markets went on a roller coaster ride in April, which was built on the architecture of the Liberation Day tariffs. As the initial announcement spooked the world, the roller coaster sent market participants on the way down to double-digit percentage losses with the S&P 500 trading into an intraday bear market. As a 90-day pause for trade deals negotiations was announced, followed by more sectorial exemptions, the roller coaster followed an uphill as markets recovered a lot of the initial losses. No sector was spared in particular, but energy companies lost the most as a steep fall in global oil prices was caused mainly by OPEC increasing its production, but also by expectations of tough economic days ahead. US markets continued their underperformance compared to peers, while European markets continued closing the gap in terms of relative performance, and Chinese markets lost the most as the Sino-US trade spat reached ridiculous tariff levels. The S&P 500 index lost 5.52% as analyst toyed with depreciated forecasts regarding earnings and margins based on reduced consumption. European markets were somewhat protected from the tariffs storm as the continent is seen to hold significant advantage in a long-term trade war with the US. The EuroStoxx50 lost 1.68% while the DAX gained 1.5% helped again by defence contractors and utilities.

In a turbulent rate environment, sovereign bonds namely U.S. Treasuries were pinched by pressure selling from investors, while corporate credit markets demonstrated overall more resilience despite notable fluctuations. Both investment-grade and high-yield segments held firm, signalling continued investor confidence in corporate creditworthiness. Euro-denominated credit outperformed US debt across the quality spectrum, with euro investment-grade returning 0.92% versus -0.02% in the US, and speculative-grade yielding 0.29% versus a flat return.

Fund Performance

In the month of April, the Global Balanced Income Fund registered a 1.24% loss. The Fund’s equity allocation has been reviewed and rebalanced, as the Manager aligned it to the overriding market sentiment. Exposures to Fiserv and Salesforce have been increased based on expectations of improved return potential over the short to medium term. Cash levels have been decreased. From a fixed-income perspective, the manager sought to boost the portfolio’s income while maintaining a solid credit profile. Subscription proceeds were allocated to a combination of new and existing bonds that presented attractive opportunities amid a broader shift toward risk-off sentiment. This included select sectors impacted by trade tensions but deemed resilient due to their strong credit fundamentals—such as shipping and logistics firm CMA CGM. Newly issued bonds added to the portfolio included those from Morgan Stanley, Eircom, and Nidda Healthcare.

Market and Investment Outlook

Going forward, the Manager believes that the ongoing negotiations carried out by the US with various trading partners, as well as the setup constructed towards a rapprochement with China have managed to induce some optimism as regards the global economic outlook. While the uncertainty still remains the name of the game as regards the outcome of such endeavours, there is a sense that any failure would be followed by extended deadlines with a view to reaching a more benevolent trading landscape than the current positioning. This will undoubtedly not only sweeten the potential economic growth despite of the recent forecast downgrades from international institutions, but also have a less muted inflationary impact. Consequently, it is more likely that monetary policies which have recently found themselves in a conundrum between the impaired economic growth and heightened inflation expectation, will find it easier to decide towards further easing. Undoubtedly the bond market’s performance will be dictated by the eventual monetary decisions which are very much conditioned by the political moves by the U.S. Administration.

Given the above, the Manager expects markets to find a renewed bout of optimism toward a more constructive positioning with volatility subsiding over the medium term. The strategic allocation remains tilted towards long-term convictions to quality companies benefitting from secular growth trends agnostic to specific macroeconomic developments. The Manager remains opportunistic for the time being in deploying capital tactically in specific sectors, and using cash levels as dry powder to be used during episodes of market overshooting.

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