

**Fund Fact Sheet**

30/10/2020

**Asset Class**

Equities Europe, all Caps

**Fund Characteristics**

AUM	€ 1282,0 mn
Launch date	28/09/1990
Oldest share class (B)	LU0093570330
Turnover (2019) <sup>1</sup>	15%
Reference currency	EUR
Hedged share classes available in	USD / CHF
Legal structure	SICAV, UCITS
Domicile	Luxembourg
European Passport	Yes
Countries of registration	AT, BE, DK, FI, FR, DE, ES, IT, LU, NL, NO, SG, SE, CH, GB

**Representative Market Index**

MSCI Europe NR (EUR)

**Fund Manager**

Following two years as portfolio manager and investment advisor at Banque Degroof Luxembourg, **Ivan Bouillot** joined Banque de Luxembourg in 2000 as a financial analyst, and was appointed head of European equity investments for the Bank's fund range in 2004. Ivan has a degree in Business and Finance from the ICHEC University in Brussels. In 2000, he obtained his CEFA (Certified EFFAS Financial Analyst) diploma and he has been a CFA (chartered financial analyst) charter holder since 2006.

**Management Company**

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**Dealing & Administrator Details**

European Fund Administration (EFA)	
Tel	+352 48 48 80 582
Fax	+352 48 65 61 8002
Dealing frequency	daily <sup>2</sup>
Cut-off time	12:00 CET
Front-load fee	max. 5%
Redemption fee	none
NAV calculation	daily <sup>2</sup>
NAV publication	<a href="http://www.fundinfo.com">www.fundinfo.com</a>

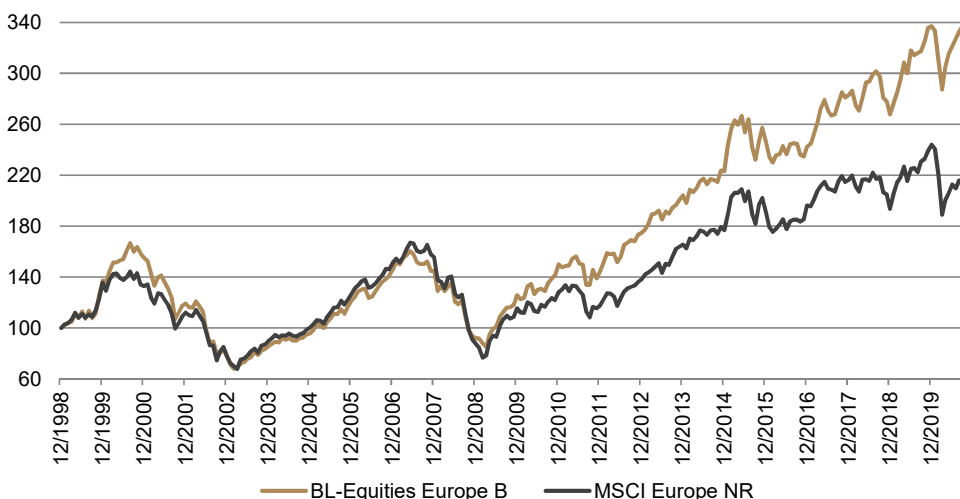
**Investment Objective**

The objective of the fund is to achieve long-term capital gains by investing in high-quality European companies benefiting from a sustainable competitive advantage. It aims to outperform its relevant benchmark return with a lower volatility.

The fund manager implements an active investment strategy based on strong convictions with a long term investment horizon.

**Key Facts**

- Concentrated portfolio of 30 to 40 companies.
- Fundamental stock picking methodology.
- Investments in quality business models.
- Monitoring of company and average portfolio valuation.
- Portfolio with structural deviations from the relevant market index.
- Diversification according to the companies' underlying earnings drivers.
- Through the cycle perspective.
- Low turnover.



Performance	YTD	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund (B shares)	-7,3%	25,9%	-5,4%	16,8%	-1,8%	10,7%
MSCI Europe NR	-17,1%	26,0%	-10,6%	10,2%	2,6%	8,2%

Performance	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Fund (B shares)	-7,3%	-4,5%	2,4%	-4,0%	9,6%	26,6%	125,5%
MSCI Europe NR	-5,0%	-3,6%	0,9%	-13,1%	-7,8%	2,8%	63,8%

Annualised Performance	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Fund (B shares)	-4,0%	3,1%	4,8%	8,5%
MSCI Europe NR	-13,1%	-2,7%	0,5%	5,1%

Annualised Volatility	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Fund (B shares)	23,6%	16,7%	15,1%	14,7%
MSCI Europe NR	29,2%	19,6%	17,6%	16,9%

The market index (MSCI Europe NR) is shown in the performance chart as well as in the performance tables above for performance measurement purposes only and it should under no circumstances be considered as an indication of a specific investment style or strategy.

Investors are also invited to consult the performance chart disclosed in the key investor information document of the sub-fund.

<sup>1</sup> min (purchases, sales) / average of net assets

<sup>2</sup> Luxembourg banking business day

**Current Portfolio**

30/10/2020

**Top Holdings**

Sika	7,3%
Unilever	5,1%
Roche Holding	4,8%
SAP	4,8%
Essity	4,8%
Air Liquide	3,8%
LVMH	3,6%
Croda International	3,3%
Pernod Ricard	3,3%
Fresenius	3,2%

**Summary Statistics**

Weight of Top 10	44,0%
Number of holdings	32
Active Share vs MSCI Europe	83,1%

**New Investments in October**

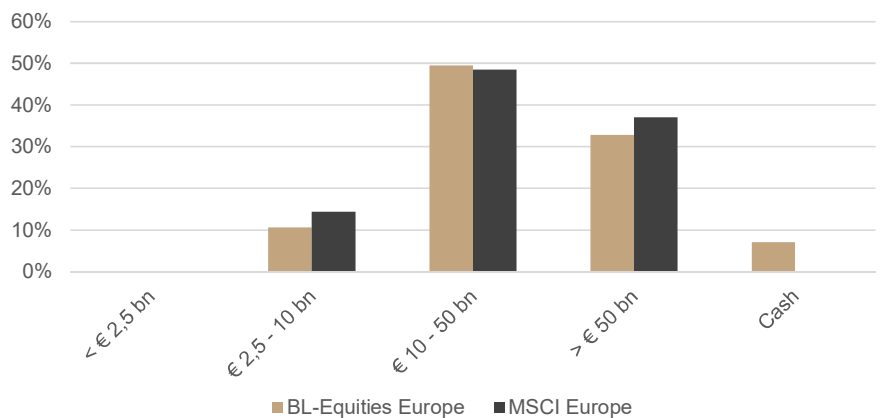
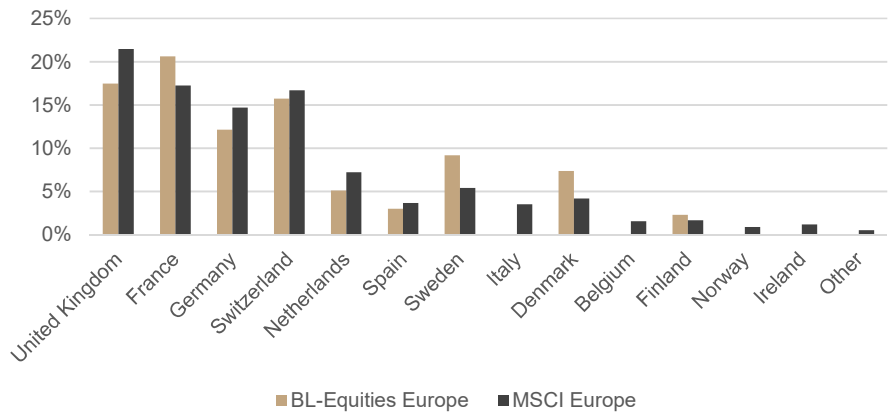
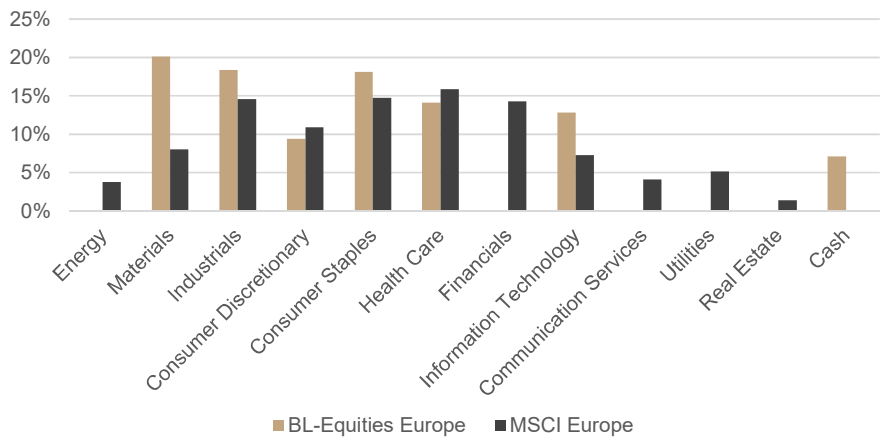
no transactions

**Investments sold in October**

no transactions

**Currency Allocation**

EUR	43,2%
GBP	17,5%
CHF	15,7%
SEK	9,2%
DKK	7,3%
Cash	7,1%



Investor Type	Clean Share	Eligibility Restrictions	Share class	Currency	Currency Hedging	Income	Mgmt fee	On-going Charges	SRRI	ISIN	Bloomberg Ticker
Retail	No	No	A	EUR	No	Dis	1,25%	1,41%	5	LU0439765081	BLEQEUA LX
Retail	No	No	B	EUR	No	Cap	1,25%	1,40%	5	LU0093570330	BLE4725 LX
Retail	No	No	B CHF Hedged	CHF	Yes	Cap	1,25%	1,40%	5	LU1305477884	BLEQBCH LX
Retail	No	No	B USD Hedged	USD	Yes	Cap	1,25%	1,40%	5	LU1273297371	BLEQEUC LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	AM	EUR	No	Dis	0,85%	1,01%	5	LU1484141491	BLEQAMD LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	BM	EUR	No	Cap	0,85%	1,00%	5	LU1484141574	BLEQEBM LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	BM CHF Hedged	CHF	Yes	Cap	0,85%	0,99%	5	LU1484141657	BLEQBMC LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	BM USD Hedged	USD	Yes	Cap	0,85%	1,00%	5	LU1484141731	BLEQBMU LX
Institutional	No	Yes	BI	EUR	No	Cap	0,60%	0,71%	5	LU0439765321	BLEQEIC LX

## Management Report

30/10/2020

European equity markets fell in October, despite European companies reporting encouraging quarterly results. The increasingly restrictive health measures in Europe are jeopardising the economic recovery and the lack of visibility is affecting the outlook for business. From a macroeconomic perspective, industrial activity in the eurozone is being helped by the economic recovery in China, but the level of activity in services has fallen back into contraction territory. On the political and health front, the ongoing complicated Brexit negotiations between London and Brussels and the accumulating delays at several laboratories in the search for a vaccine against Covid-19 have also dampened investor enthusiasm. The MSCI Europe SMID Net Return EUR index recorded a fall of 5.01%. All sectors are in retreat with a much more marked decline in the technology sector, which corrected sharply following the publication of SAP's results. BL Equities Europe has a significant position in SAP and suffered as a result. It declined by 7.32%.

The portfolio's performance was helped by Spirax Sarco, Sika, Pernod Ricard, Halma and LVMH. Sika, Pernod Ricard and LHMH were all boosted by favourable trading updates. Spirax Sarco and Halma benefited more from their status as niche players, little affected by the health crisis.

The main detractors from the month's performance were SAP, Fresenius, Essity, Intertek and Reckitt Benckiser. SAP fell sharply following the publication of below-consensus quarterly results and a decline in its business outlook for full-year 2020. SAP explains its less robust growth by a more hesitant-than-expected recovery in demand due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the onset of a second wave of infection, which calls for the reimposition of lockdown measures. SAP has also downgraded the targets that management had set for 2023. With Christian Klein taking up his position as the group's sole CEO, an announcement about his vision for the company's development was awaited. However, the extent of the downward revision of the 2023 targets was unexpected. SAP revised its target operating margin for 2023 downwards by 4 to 5 percentage points, and anticipates stable operating profit for 2021 and 2022, whereas the consensus expectation was for growth of 11% per annum. The main factor behind this downgrade is a higher capital expenditure budget to accelerate the group's migration to the cloud and its collaboration with major partners, such as Microsoft. Although this weakens our short-term investment case, we continue to have a constructive view of the company for the time being. We will nevertheless remain alert that SAP does not face structural risks.

No major transactions were conducted in the portfolio during the month.

## Investment Approach

### Investment Principles

#### **Limit investment losses**

The value of an investment that has lost 50% must double to recover incurred losses  
*Avoiding losses is more important than generating extraordinary gains*

#### **Control company specific risk**

Risks arise when the parameters of an investment are not properly understood  
*We avoid investing in companies we do not fully understand*

#### **Valuation monitoring**

The price paid for an investment determines its potential return  
*We monitor the margin of safety to minimize the likelihood of suffering losses on our investments*

#### **Consideration of an entire market cycle**

Foregoing part of potential gains in strongly rising markets pays dividends in falling markets  
*Our objective is to outperform the relevant benchmark through an entire market cycle.*

#### **Benchmark agnostic**

The market reference is solely used for performance measurement principles  
*Owing to the active investment approach of our portfolio management, the portfolio structure deviates strongly from that of the benchmark.*

### Equity Investment Approach: Business-Like Investing

We consider an equity investment as a long-term participation in a business. The companies we target enjoy a sustainable competitive advantage that differentiates them from their competitors. They need to show an attractive return profile and generate high and consistent levels of free cash-flow.

#### **Quality**

In the first step of our investment process, we perform an in-depth review of the targeted company's business model in order to identify its competitive advantage. Differentiation through a competitive advantage creates entry barriers against competitors and enables a company to better execute its strategy. In the second step we analyse whether the competitive advantage translates into high ROCE and whether the company generates consistent cash-flow. We analyse the maintenance capex requirements of the targeted companies to make sure that the generated cash-flow is not absorbed by investments needed to sustain its current business operations. We emphasize the analysis of the balance sheet and look for companies with a low level of gearing through the cycle.

In the third step, we analyse how the targeted company has used and will use its capital. The company's management faces the following options: investment in current business activities, development of new activities, takeovers, dividend payments, stock buybacks or debt repayments. Only companies that meet our investment criteria are considered for inclusion into our portfolios, which may lead to significant deviations from the market benchmarks.

#### **Valuation**

Investments may lead to important capital losses if the price paid for the investment is too high. To avoid this pitfall, we derive a fair value for each targeted company prior to investing. This fair value is based on the company's normalised free cash-flow and serves as reference point for our buy and sell discipline.

We invest in a company, when its stock price offers the most attractive margin of safety, taking into account its development prospects.

### Portfolio characteristics

BL-Equities Europe invests in a focused selection of European companies. Targeted companies are typically among the top-3 in their respective markets and offer favourable development prospects. We construct a concentrated portfolio of approximately 35 positions, which allows us to have a good handle of each individual investment, to express our convictions and to minimise errors. Our investment process singles out companies that stand out against their competitors - through an added value product or service, through a good corporate strategy and production process, which underscores high levels of profitability and a healthy financial situation. Portfolio candidates need to enjoy favourable sales growth and / or margin progression prospects.

Our investment choices lead to significant and structural deviations from the fund's relevant market (MSCI Europe NR). We do not invest in all sectors that are represented in the market index. We identify most investment opportunities in the consumer, industrial, health care, chemical and technology sectors. Conversely, there are sectors like financials, utilities or telecom, where we find few - if any - companies that meet our investment criteria. The fund's geographical focus is biased towards Switzerland, Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark and the UK. In terms of market capitalisations, 3/4 of the portfolio are usually invested in companies with a market cap between € 2 and 50 bn.

Our investment strategy has a long-term orientation: our investment cases are constructed with a 3 to 5-year investment horizon. When implementing our bottom-up investment strategy, we do not consider any short term macroeconomic views. Owing to this approach, portfolio turnover rate is low: 25% annual turnover rate is to be expected on average. When making an investment, we are wary of valuation levels of each individual company: at investment, the market price needs to offer a discount against the company's fair value (margin of safety). The average valuation level of the portfolio is also closely monitored.

Portfolio construction rests on three main pillars: the stable core portfolio consists of well-established companies. It is complemented by pockets consisting of growth franchises (focus on growth prospects) and of special situations (focus on turnaround of fundamentals). The portfolio structure is the outcome of individual bottom-up investment opportunities without consideration of the fund's relevant benchmark structure. The weight given to each security in the

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Legal documentation of the fund may be obtained, free of charge, at the offices of the Swiss representative, CACEIS (Switzerland) S.A., 7-9, Chemin de Précossy, CH-1260 Nyon, Switzerland, in accordance with the provisions of the Swiss Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006 ("CISA").

The SICAV has appointed Banque CIC (Suisse) SA, Marktplatz 13, CH-4001 Bâle, Switzerland to act as paying agent for Switzerland.

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