

## RISK

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, supplement, KIDs and KIIDs for the Funds (available on our website), which contain detailed information on their characteristics and objectives and full information on the risks, before making any final investment decisions.

The Funds are equity funds. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

## COMMENTARY

The Guinness European Equity Income Fund was down -0.4% in January, while the MSCI Europe ex UK Index rose 2.2% in GBP, resulting in the Fund underperforming the benchmark by 2.6 percentage points.

European equities delivered positive returns over the month, led by the Information Technology, Energy and Utilities sectors. The Fund's quality bias steers us away from Utilities and Energy, which have exhibited lower historical return-on-capital profiles. This backdrop of positive European performance occurred amid heightened geopolitical volatility. Continued tensions in Venezuela and broader US foreign policy developments contributed to market uncertainty and influenced risk sentiment. In Venezuela, recent political developments have reignited concerns around oil supply dynamics, and broader geopolitical risk narratives have weighed on the US dollar. Concurrently, public debate around US strategic interests in Greenland and elsewhere has added to the noise in currency and commodities markets.

## ABOUT THE STRATEGY

<b>Launch</b>	19.12.2013
<b>Index</b>	MSCI Europe ex UK
<b>Sector</b>	IA Europe Excluding UK
<b>Manager</b>	Will James
<b>EU Domiciled</b>	Guinness European Equity Income Fund
<b>UK Domiciled</b>	WS Guinness European Equity Income Fund

## OBJECTIVE

The Guinness European Equity Income Funds are designed to provide investors with exposure to high-quality dividend-paying companies in the Europe ex UK region. The Funds aim to provide capital appreciation and a source of income that has the potential to grow over time. The Funds are actively managed and use the MSCI Europe ex UK Index as a comparator benchmark only.

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January also marked the onset of the corporate earnings season, which drove notable dispersion in stock performance. The market rewarded semiconductor hardware companies with stronger-than-expected demand for memory and logic components, while investors penalised well known stocks in consumer sectors and software incumbents facing perceived disruption risks from artificial intelligence.

Sector performance was led by Technology (+10.6% in EUR), Energy (+9.5%) and Utilities (+7.7%). There were sharp rotations between sectors during the month, reflecting heightened uncertainty and a strong earnings-driven response at the stock level.

Information Technology outperformance was driven by stronger-than-expected semiconductor order bookings. Semiconductor equipment companies ASML and ASM International both rose more than 30% over the month, supported by better-than-expected Q4 orders, reflecting a rebound in China and continued demand for advanced logic and foundry capacity. Although the IT sector delivered strongly, it depended on the type of technology.

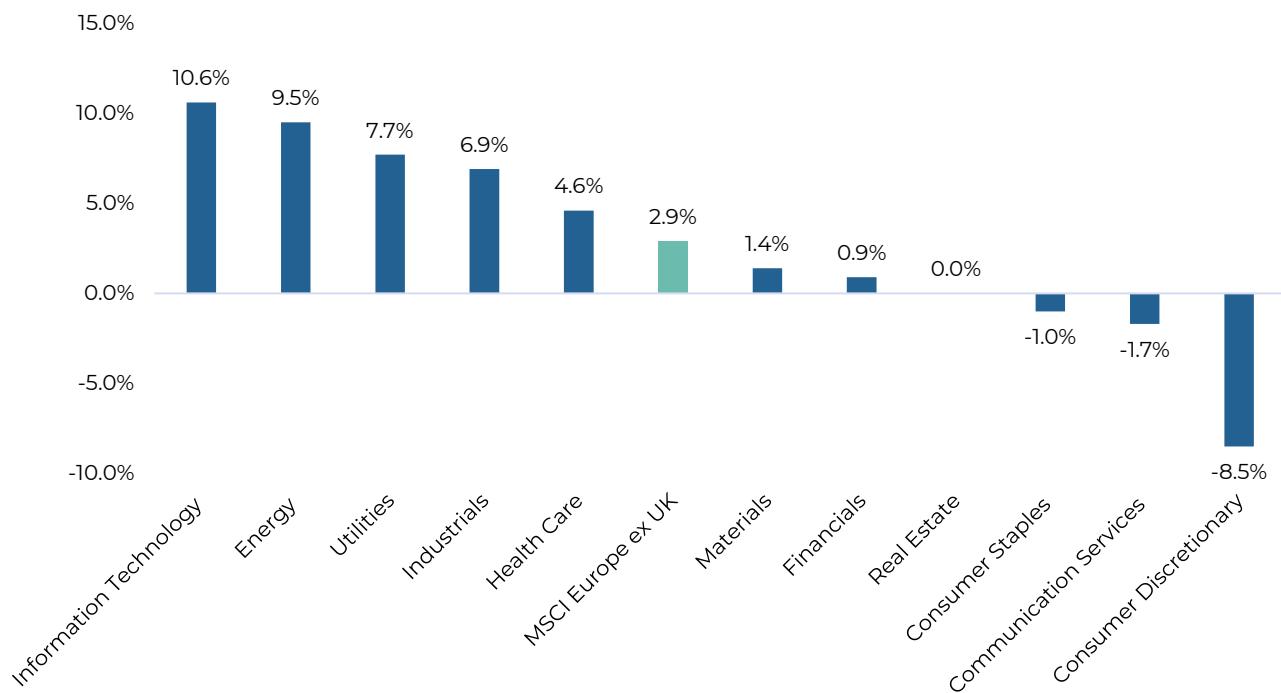
## Guinness European Equity Income

In a bifurcated world of AI winners and losers, semiconductors are deemed the winners while software companies are the losers. The market overreactions this involves were exemplified by the case of SAP, the German software behemoth, whose share price declined 16% following Q4 results after its cloud contract backlog growth missed expectations by a single percentage point.

Energy and Utilities, where the strategy has no exposure, also performed strongly. Stocks in these sectors tend not to meet our quality criteria. Political instability in Venezuela, alongside renewed rhetoric from the US over Greenland, heightened concerns around energy supply, supporting commodity prices and related equities.

The weakest-performing sectors were Consumer Discretionary (-8.5%), Communication Services (-1.7%) and Consumer Staples (-1.0%). Within Consumer Discretionary, Pandora fell more than 25% amid rising silver input costs, while LVMH declined following earnings on signs of softer demand in China. Richemont, despite beating Q3 sales expectations, fell approximately 14%, highlighting the market's swift profit-taking when opportunities present themselves.

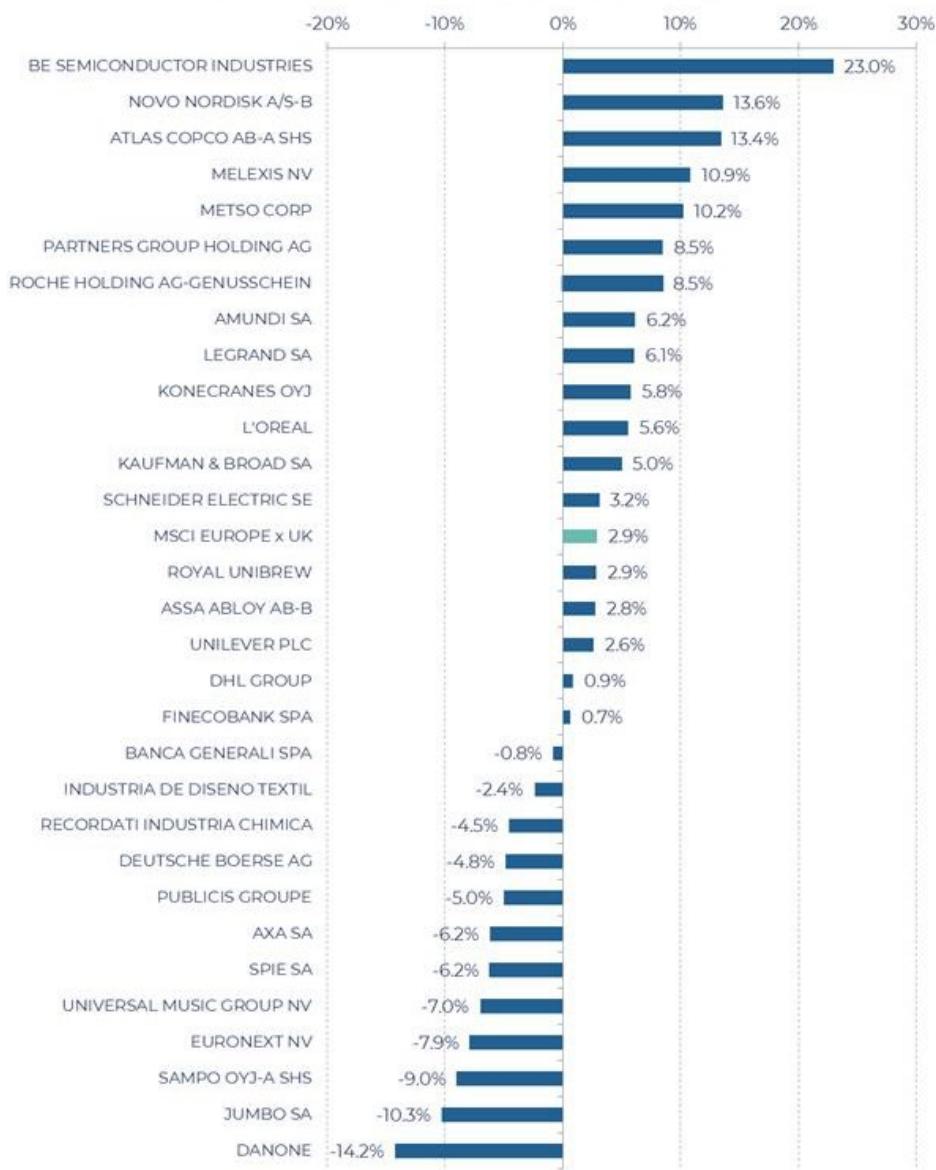
MSCI Europe ex UK Sector performance (EUR) - January 2026



Source: Bloomberg. Data as of 31.01.2026

## STOCK PERFORMANCE

Individual stock performance (total return in EUR) in January



Source: Bloomberg. Data as of 31.01.2026

## Contributors

## BE Semiconductor (+23.0% in EUR)

BE Semiconductor, or Besi, is for the moment deemed an AI winner. The company issued a positive Q4 2025 pre-release, reporting preliminary orders of €250m – well above the €194m-€210m consensus estimate – driven by a broad-based pick-up in demand from Asian OSATs (outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing houses) that handle back-end chip assembly for global semiconductor customers. The growth mainly comes from demand for advanced chip packaging technologies that tightly connect powerful AI chips with high-speed memory used in data centres. The company also highlighted receipt of expected hybrid bonding orders from a major customer, underscoring traction in next-generation interconnect technology. Revenue, gross margin, and operating costs are all expected to land at the favourable end of prior

guidance, reflecting solid execution in its mainstream flip-chip and module attach business and a broader customer base across multiple OSATs rather than reliance on a single foundry.

### **Novo Nordisk (+13.6%)**

Novo Nordisk experienced positive momentum in January, driven by renewed investor optimism surrounding the US launch of oral Wegovy. Novo reported that 170,000 patients started on the oral formulation within just four weeks of launch, which exceeded internal expectations.

### **Atlas Copco (+13.4%)**

Atlas Copco's performance in January was underpinned by signs of a positive inflection in order intake revealed in its Q4 2025 report published on January 27. While revenues decreased 7%, the company reported organic order growth of 4%, reaching MSEK 38,606, driven by solid demand for gas and process compressors and a notable 13% increase in vacuum equipment orders supported by the semiconductor industry. The vacuum equipment strength (tied to semiconductor fab build-outs) alongside stabilizing compressor demand, suggested Atlas Copco's exposure to AI-linked infrastructure spending was beginning to materialize in its order book.

## **Detractors**

### **Danone (-14.2% in EUR)**

Danone faced a setback from an infant formula contamination issue involving alleged cereulide toxin in products such as Aptamil and Dumex, linked to a supplier's arachidonic acid oil. This prompted precautionary recalls in the UK, Ireland, Germany, and Singapore, with direct sales impact under 0.5% of revenue. While the infant nutrition segment (20% of sales) faces some brand pressure amid China's declining birthrate, medical nutrition and yogurts remain solid. We are closely monitoring ongoing recalls and regulatory developments.

### **Jumbo (-10.3%)**

Jumbo's trading update revealed that sales growth in the critical holiday month of December had decelerated. While the group maintained approximately 8% growth through November, network sales growth for December slowed to roughly 5%, weighed down by supply chain disruptions caused by road network blockades during the holiday season that hampered distribution both domestically and to export markets. Romania proved challenging, with sales declining marginally by 0.1% in December due to a combination of currency depreciation, a recent VAT increase, and new fiscal measures that pressured consumer spending. The slowdown over the holiday period, in which Jumbo typically books 35% of annual revenue, tempered full-year outlooks and somewhat eclipsed news of a new €0.50/share special cash pay-out.

### **Sampo (-9.0%)**

Sampo's decline in January occurred during the company's silent period ahead of its Q4 2025 results in early February, with investor caution building around competitive pressures in key segments. Market concerns centred on the deteriorating UK motor insurance market, where double-digit average premium declines had been reported in late 2025, squeezing profit margins as insurers cut prices to win business. Simultaneously, uncertainty surrounded claims inflation and potential winter weather impacts in the Nordic region after late-December storms.

## CHANGES TO THE PORTFOLIO

In January, we made the following portfolio changes. We exited Nestlé, Mapfre and Helvetia–Baloise, and initiated positions in L'Oréal, Partners Group and FinecoBank.

We sold Nestlé and purchased L'Oréal, reflecting our stronger conviction in L'Oréal's business model, based on its ability to control its own destiny, innovate continuously and defend its market position. This increases portfolio quality by moving from a company managing leverage and volume pressures to one with a stronger balance sheet and superior organic growth.

Mapfre, which we have held since the Fund's launch in 2013, delivered a strong re-rating from 2020 onwards, following an extended period of more subdued performance. We exited the position after this strong run and redeployed capital into Partners Group, where we favour the long-term structural growth opportunity in private markets and where we believe the business is less reliant on external factors such as interest rates, currencies or wider insurance pricing dynamics.

We sold Helvetia–Baloise after last year's strong run pushed valuations to a level where we preferred to redeploy capital into Fineco, where we can invest with higher conviction. While further re-rating at Helvetia–Baloise appears increasingly dependent on merger synergies and cost-cutting to meet profitability targets, Fineco benefits from more visible structural growth tailwinds, driven by a strong focus on delivering a compelling customer value proposition and gaining market share. It remains very well placed to benefit from the ongoing democratisation of retail investment reinforced by the move towards the Savings and Investment Union that forms a cornerstone of the EU's attempts to unlock long-term capital.

## OUTLOOK

As we proceed through the early part of 2026, it is clear that the geopolitical backdrop remains the primary source of risk and one should expect volatility to continue. From shifting trade alliances to the ongoing imperative for energy and defence autonomy, over the last year or so markets and Europe as a collective appear to be having to operate in a state of perpetual flux.

However, after a surprisingly strong but challenging 2025, given the tariff concerns and trade uncertainty, we are now observing a welcome stabilization in earnings expectations. Crucially, the "fiscal drag" that long characterised the region is shifting toward a potential fiscal impulse. Led by a significant pivot in German infrastructure and defence spending – estimated to reach nearly 4% of GDP – one should hopefully see a trickle-down effect across the continent. This transition from purely monetary support to targeted fiscal investment provides a more durable floor for earnings growth in Europe. In addition to this potential fiscal boost, the structural challenge of European competitiveness remains front and centre. The landmark recommendations put forward by Mario Draghi serve as a vital roadmap for the region. To avoid falling further behind the US and China, Europe must address its innovation gap and fragmented capital markets.

In a world where growth remains scarce and volatility is a constant companion, the virtues of Quality, Value, and Dividends become even more compelling. While the broader market may be swayed by the geopolitical noise, "AI euphoria" or speculative rotations, our focus remains anchored in the compounding power of the high-quality European businesses we are able to find, where the fundamental positive signals found by focusing on high returns on invested capital (ROIC) and resilient free cash flows help us ignore the noise. By focusing on attractively valued high-quality companies with sustainable and growing dividends, we aim to capture the benefits of Europe's fiscal awakening while shielding the portfolio from the incessant "noise" of global geopolitics. In 2026 and beyond we believe, the prize goes to the patient investor who prioritizes fundamental strength over the vagaries of 'the market'. We will continue to stick to our discipline of owning resilient businesses with strong balance sheets, consistently high cash returns, and the ability to compound under their own steam. We believe this remains a robust approach for long-term investors, and we stay patient, constructive and confident in the portfolio's medium to long-term prospects.

### Portfolio Manager

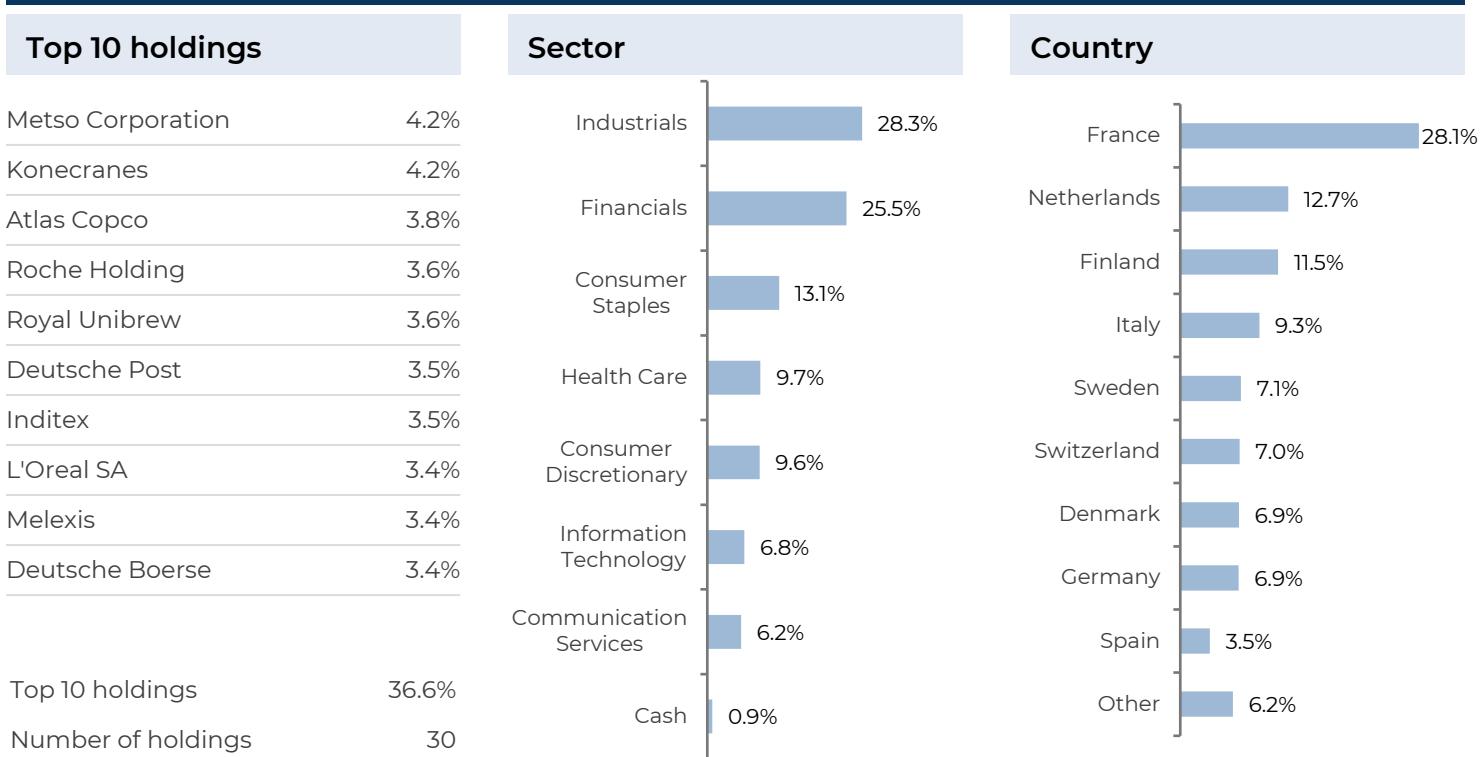
Will James

GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS

Fund size	\$133.4m
Fund launch	19.12.2013
OCF	0.77%
Benchmark	MSCI Europe ex UK TR
Historic yield	3.0% (Y GBP Dist)

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO



## Guinness European Equity Income Fund

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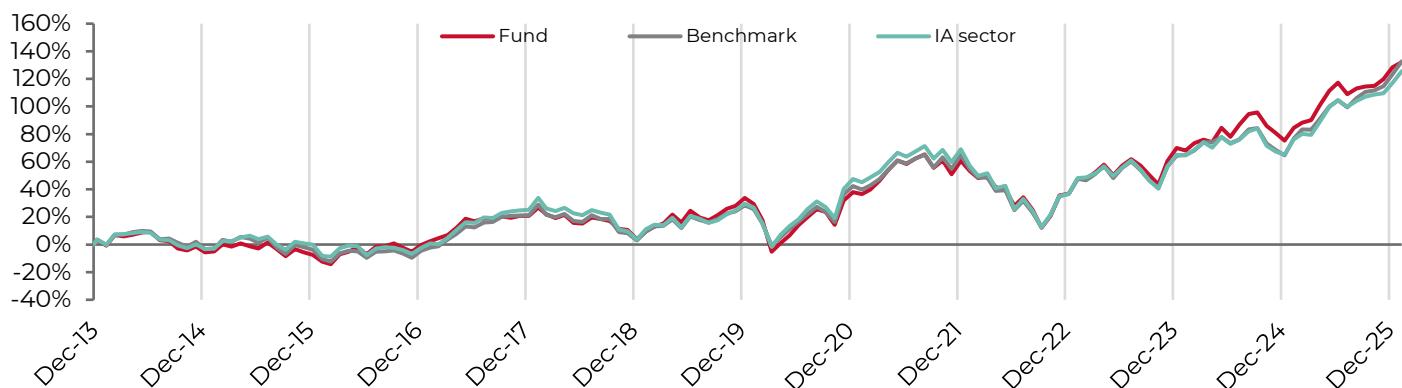
### GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	-0.4%	-0.4%	+13.8%	+41.0%	+70.2%	+173.6%
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+2.2%	+2.2%	+19.1%	+41.3%	+66.5%	+168.5%
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+1.8%	+1.8%	+15.9%	+36.6%	+55.4%	+153.9%
(USD)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	+1.6%	+1.6%	+25.7%	+57.1%	+70.1%	+165.1%
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+4.2%	+4.2%	+31.6%	+57.5%	+66.4%	+159.8%
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+3.9%	+3.9%	+28.0%	+52.3%	+55.3%	+145.6%
(EUR)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	+0.3%	+0.3%	+9.8%	+43.5%	+73.7%	+140.6%
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+2.9%	+2.9%	+15.0%	+43.7%	+69.9%	+136.3%
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+2.6%	+2.6%	+11.9%	+39.0%	+58.6%	+123.4%

### GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fund	+21.4%	+5.0%	+17.2%	-4.2%	+17.5%	+0.1%	+23.7%	-8.8%	+10.7%	+28.5%
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+26.2%	+1.9%	+14.8%	-7.6%	+16.7%	+7.5%	+20.0%	-9.9%	+15.8%	+18.6%
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+22.5%	+1.7%	+14.0%	-9.0%	+15.8%	+10.3%	+20.3%	-12.2%	+17.3%	+16.4%
(USD)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fund	+30.4%	+3.1%	+24.2%	-14.9%	+16.4%	+3.3%	+28.6%	-14.0%	+21.2%	+7.8%
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+35.5%	+0.1%	+21.7%	-18.0%	+15.7%	+10.9%	+24.8%	-15.1%	+26.8%	-0.6%
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+31.6%	-0.1%	+20.8%	-19.2%	+14.7%	+13.8%	+25.2%	-17.3%	+28.4%	-2.4%
(EUR)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fund	+15.0%	+10.0%	+20.0%	-9.3%	+25.2%	-5.2%	+31.1%	-9.8%	+6.4%	+10.9%
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+19.5%	+6.8%	+17.6%	-12.6%	+24.4%	+1.7%	+27.1%	-10.9%	+11.4%	+2.4%
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+16.0%	+6.6%	+16.7%	-13.9%	+23.4%	+4.4%	+27.5%	-13.1%	+12.8%	+0.5%

### GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (USD)



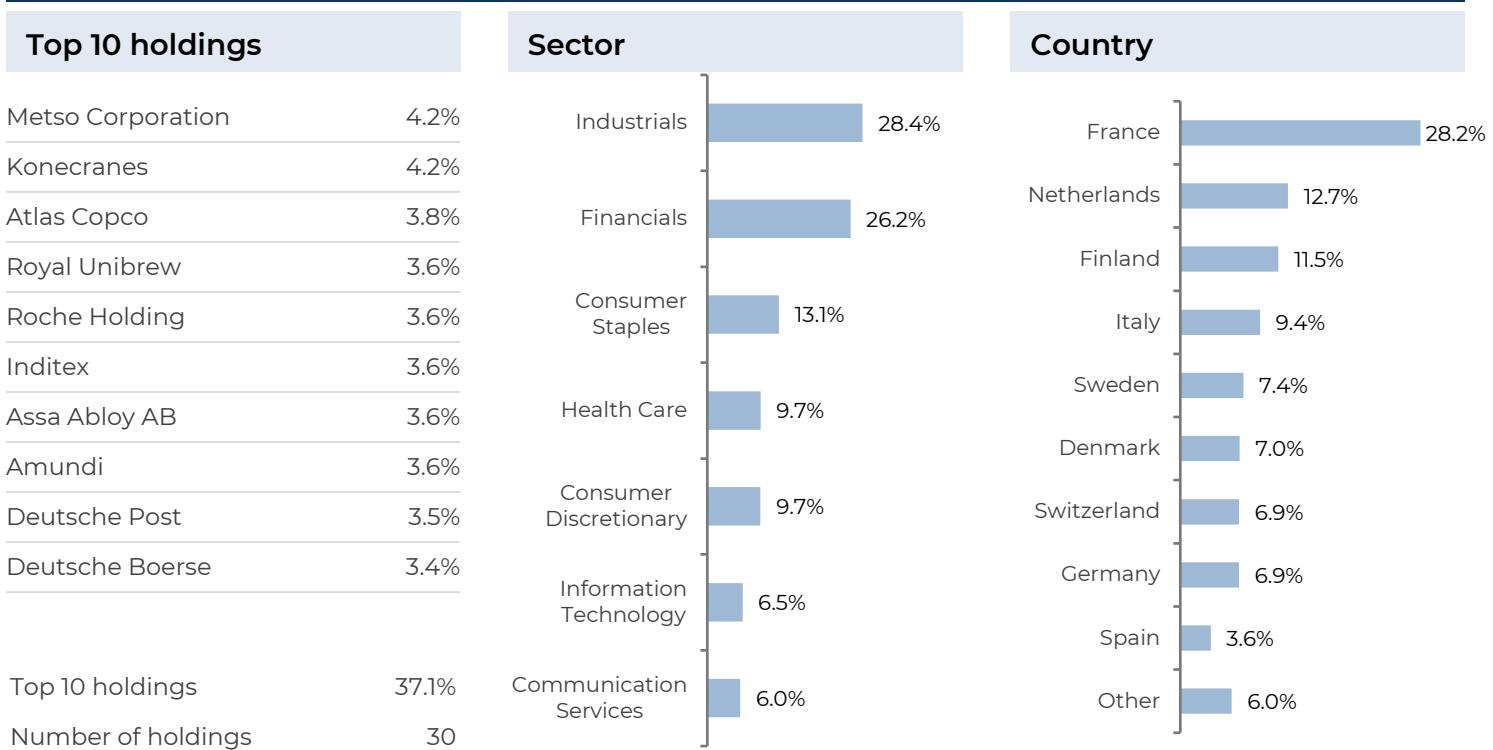
Source: FE fundinfo net of fees to 31.01.26. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The current OCF is 0.77%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS

Fund size	£1.4m
Fund launch	30.12.2022
OCF	0.77%
Benchmark	MSCI Europe ex UK TR
Historic yield	2.8% (Y Inc)

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO



## WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND

Past performance does not predict future returns.

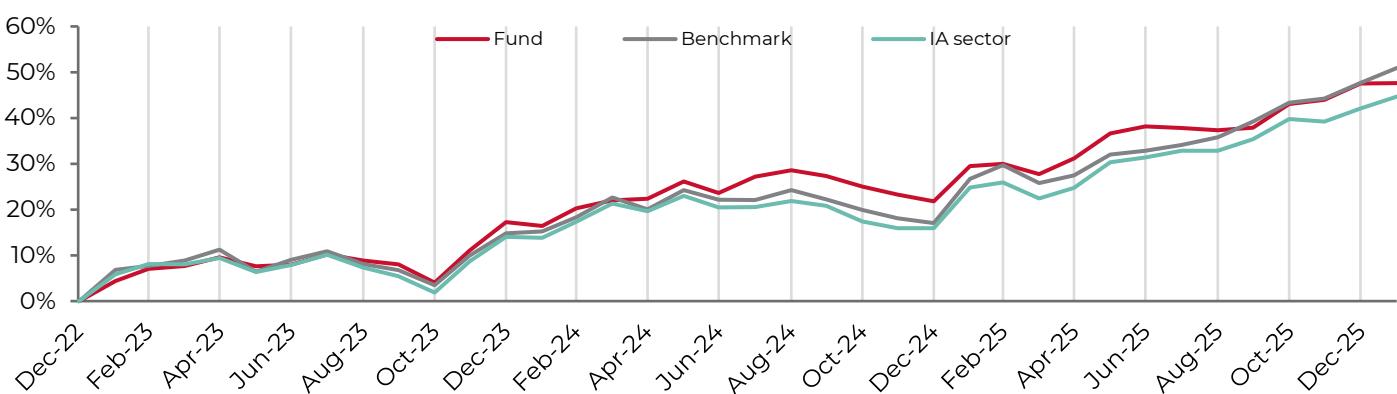
### WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	+0.0%	+0.0%	+14.0%	+41.4%	-	-
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+2.2%	+2.2%	+19.1%	+41.3%	-	-
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+1.8%	+1.8%	+15.9%	+36.6%	-	-

### WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fund	+21.1%	+3.9%	+17.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MSCI Europe ex UK TR	+26.2%	+1.9%	+14.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IA Europe Excluding UK TR	+22.5%	+1.7%	+14.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND - PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (GBP)



Source: FE fundinfo net of fees to 31.01.26. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The current OCF is 0.77%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Issued by Guinness Global Investors** which is a trading name of Guinness Asset Management Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This report is primarily designed to inform you about the Guinness European Equity Income Fund and the WS Guinness European Equity Income Fund. It may provide information about the Funds' portfolio, including recent activity and performance. It contains facts relating to the equity markets and our own interpretation. Any investment decision should take account of the subjectivity of the comments contained in the report. OCFs for all share classes are available on [www.guinnessgi.com](http://www.guinnessgi.com).

This document is provided for information only and all the information contained in it is believed to be reliable but may be inaccurate or incomplete; any opinions stated are honestly held at the time of writing, but are not guaranteed. The contents of the document should not therefore be relied upon. It should not be taken as a recommendation to make an investment in the Funds or to buy or sell individual securities, nor does it constitute an offer for sale. If you decide to invest, you will be buying shares in the Fund and will not be investing directly in the underlying assets of the Fund.

## GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND

### Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, Supplement, Key Information Document (KID), Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from [www.guinnessgi.com](http://www.guinnessgi.com) or free of charge from:-

- the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited (Waystone IE) 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 A4E0, Ireland or the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

Waystone IE is a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland having its registered office at 35 Shelbourne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 A4E0 Ireland, which is authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland, has appointed Guinness Asset Management Ltd as Investment Manager to this fund, and as Manager has the right to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of funds in accordance with the UCITS Directive.

### Investor Rights

A summary of investor rights in English, including collective redress mechanisms, is available here: <https://www.waystone.com/waystone-policies/>

### Residency

In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients. **NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.**

### Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of Guinness Asset Management Funds PLC (the "Company"), an open-ended umbrella-type investment company, incorporated in Ireland and authorised and supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland, which operates under EU legislation. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in this Fund, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.

### Switzerland

This is an advertising document. The prospectus and KID for Switzerland, the articles of association, and the annual and semi-annual reports can be obtained free of charge from the representative in Switzerland, REYL & Cie S.A., Rue du Rhône 4, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland. The paying agent is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17 Quai de l'Ile, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland.

### Singapore

The Fund is not authorised or recognised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") and shares are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. The Fund is registered with the MAS as a Restricted Foreign Scheme. Shares of the Fund may only be offered to institutional and accredited investors (as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap.289)) ('SFA') and this material is limited to the investors in those categories.

## WS GUINNESS EUROPEAN EQUITY INCOME FUND

### Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from [www.fundolutions.net/uk/guinness-global-investors/](http://www.fundolutions.net/uk/guinness-global-investors/) or free of charge from:-

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DL1 9UF  
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E-Mail: [wtas-investorservices@waystone.com](mailto:wtas-investorservices@waystone.com)  
Dealing: [ordergroup@waystone.com](mailto:ordergroup@waystone.com)

Waystone Management (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Residency

This Fund is registered for distribution to the public in the UK but not in any other jurisdiction. In other countries or in circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients.

### Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of WS Guinness Investment Funds, an investment company with variable capital incorporated with limited liability and registered by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Telephone calls will be recorded and monitored.