Janus Henderson INVESTORS

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN FUND

At a glance

Performance*
The Fund returned −2.80%, the Index returned −2.58% and the Sector returned −2.70%.

Contributors/detractors
ABN Amro, Prysmian and TotalEnergies contributed, while UBS, Fresnillo and Saint Gobain detracted from performance.

Outlook
Attention has shifted decisively towards the interest rate outlook, with developments in bond markets likely to remain a key driver of asset returns and market leadership in the coming months.

Portfolio management



Robert Schramm-Fuchs



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Investment environment

- European equities declined in September as higher energy prices, rising government bond yields, and political and fiscal uncertainty outweighed resilient economic data.
- Germany and France led the declines in the major equity markets, while continued strength in energy and select technology stocks helped offset weakness elsewhere.
- Escalating tensions in the Middle East pushed oil prices above $100 per barrel, which added to inflationary pressures. Equities recovered periodically as oil prices retreated and hopes emerged for diplomatic progress between the US and Iran, although bond yields rose to multi-year highs and remained a significant headwind.
- More positively, economic data pointed to continued resilience. According to a 'flash' estimate, the composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased to 53.1 in September–a three-and-a-half-year high–from 52.0 the prior month. Both the services and manufacturing sectors contributed.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) raised interest rates for the second time since the US/Iran conflict began and indicated that further monetary policy tightening may be needed. Eurozone annual inflation picked up to a slightly lower-than-predicted 3.2% in August from July's 2.9% increase, as energy prices remained elevated.

Portfolio review

Overall, more rate-sensitive sectors, particularly banking, continued to perform well in September, while select technology stocks exposed to the AI theme also posted gains. Within the portfolio, stock dispersion was relatively subdued during the month, with limited variation in returns across individual stocks.

In our European banking holdings, Dutch lender ABN Amro was a notable contributor to relative performance. The sector continued to benefit from expectations of higher-for-longer interest rates, while ABN Amro was also boosted by positive sentiment towards its restructuring efforts.

Renewed optimism about AI-related investment drove a rebound in some semiconductor and broader AI-ecosystem stocks, including Italian cable maker Prysmian, a new position in the month. The firm is a direct beneficiary of the AI theme via its fibre division, but also offers significant exposure to investments in electricity grids, an

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*For benchmark and sector, if applicable, refer to Fund details on page 3. For relevant descriptions, risks and the Fund's investment policy statement, refer to Additional fund information on page 4.

area we believe is underpinned by strong long-term structural growth.

Shares in food retailer Ahold Delhaize also added value, in a strong month for more defensive areas of the market. US dollar strength was a further tailwind, given the firm's significant exposure to the US.

Elsewhere, the holding in TotalEnergies outperformed, as oil prices edged higher over the month.

By contrast, detractors included the holding in Swiss lender UBS. Uncertainty surrounding proposed changes to capital requirements in Switzerland has continued to weigh on the stock. While discussions appear to be in the final stages, a lack of visibility on the final outcome has led to some volatility in the share price.

Precious metals miner Fresnillo also weighed on returns. The sector came under pressure in September as gold and silver prices fell amid the surge in global bond yields and the strengthening of the US dollar.

Finally, on the flipside of the banking trade, elevated bond yields were a headwind for other rate-sensitive holdings such as construction materials groups CRH and Saint Gobain. The higher rate environment has recovery in US and European residential construction markets.

In terms of activity, we made changes to AI investment beneficiary names, adding new positions in Rexel and the aforementioned Prysmian. We viewed both stocks as attractively valued relative to other companies exposed to the AI thematic. We initiated the position in French electrical supplies firm Rexel after the company announced plans to acquire CGC, a US-based specialty infrastructure platform. The transaction prompted a capital raise in which we participated. In return, we took profits in some of our existing AI-related holdings, exiting our positions in Siemens Energy, Linde and Nokia, where we felt that valuations had become less compelling.

We also narrowed our underweight to the consumer staples sector, by adding consumer packaged goods platform Coca-Cola HBC. The company has a history of solid earnings compounding. A pending acquisition of a stake in Coca-Cola Beverages Africa bodes well for growth prospects in Africa, in our view.

Manager outlook

The situation in the Middle East remains fluid, with intermittent signs of diplomatic progress between the US and Iran continuing to alternate with renewed outbreaks of hostilities. This prolonged period of uncertainty has meant expectations for higher inflation have continued. It has also contributed to the recent rise in global long-term bond yields to multi-year highs. As a result, investor attention has shifted decisively towards the outlook for interest rates, with developments in bond markets likely to remain a key driver of both asset returns and market leadership through the remainder of the year.

Another important debate centres on the durability of the artificial intelligence (AI)-driven investment theme that has dominated equity markets for much of the past two years. While companies exposed to semiconductors and AI infrastructure have continued to deliver strong growth and earnings momentum, history suggests that sharp reversals in share-price leadership can precede a moderation in underlying expectations for growth. Against this backdrop, we adopt a balanced stance towards the AI theme. At the same time, we retain overweight positions in sectors that tend to be sensitive to yields, such as financials and energy.

In Europe, the economic backdrop has continued to improve gradually since the start of the year. Leading indicators have shown increasing signs of stabilisation, most notably in Germany, where the manufacturing PMI returned to expansionary territory for the first time in over three years in January and gradually strengthened thereafter towards a multi-year high. This improvement has been reinforced by a broadly supportive second-quarter earnings season, as well as renewed reform momentum.

In managing the portfolio, we remain focused on bottom-up stock selection, maintaining balanced exposure across cyclical and typically more defensive businesses. We also aim to selectively position the portfolio to benefit from both Europe's global champions and areas offering leverage to an improving domestic economic backdrop.

Performance (%)

Returns	Cumulative				Annualised			
	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since inception (29/10/04)
A2 EUR (Net)	-2.80	-4.44	2.55	8.85	11.00	7.36	8.36	8.08
Index	-2.58	-2.00	8.99	15.56	14.42	9.02	9.29	7.90
Sector	-2.70	-1.01	8.26	14.93	12.74	7.21	8.50	7.73

12 month rolling	Sep 2025-Sep 2026	Sep 2024-Sep 2025	Sep 2023-Sep 2024	Sep 2022-Sep 2023	Sep 2021-Sep 2022
A2 EUR (Net)	8.85	7.86	16.50	23.18	-15.33
Index	15.56	8.60	19.37	20.38	-14.60
Sector	14.93	5.21	18.51	19.27	-17.15

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Performance/performance target related data will display only where relevant to the share class inception date and annualised target time period. **The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount originally invested.** Source for target returns (where applicable) - Janus Henderson Investors.

Fund charges will impact the value of your investment. In particular, the ongoing charges applicable to each fund will dilute investment performance, particularly over time. For further explanation of charges please visit our Fund Charges page at www.janushenderson.com.

Note that any differences among portfolio securities currencies, share class currencies and costs to be paid or represented in currencies other than your home currency will expose you to currency risk. Costs and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency and exchange rate fluctuations.

Investment objective

The Fund aims to provide a return, from a combination of capital growth and income over the long term (5 years or more).

For the fund's investment policy, refer to the Additional fund information on page 4.
Past performance does not predict future returns.

Fund details

Inception date	29 September 2000
Total net assets	1.85bn
Asset class	Equities
Domicile	Luxembourg
Structure	SICAV
Base currency	EUR
Index	MSCI Europe (ex UK) Index
Morningstar sector	Europe ex-UK Equity
SFDR category	Article 8

In accordance with the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, the Fund is classified as Article 8 and promotes, among other characteristics, environmental and/or social characteristics, and invests in companies with good governance practices.

Additional fund information

Tax assumptions and reliefs depend upon an investor's particular circumstances and may be subject to change. Availability of share classes shown may be limited by law in certain jurisdictions. Performance records/scenarios are detailed within the fund's specific KIID/KID; fees and charges, and the respective risk rating may vary. Further information can be found in the fund's prospectus and KIID/KID, which must be reviewed before investing. Please consult your local sales representative and/or financial adviser if you have any queries. This is a Luxembourg SICAV Fund, regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). These are the views of the author at the time of publication and may differ from the views of other individuals/teams at Janus Henderson Investors. Any securities, funds, sectors or indices mentioned within this article do not constitute or form part of any offer or solicitation to buy or sell them. The information in this commentary does not qualify as an investment recommendation. Investment into the fund will acquire units/shares of the fund itself and not the underlying assets owned by the fund. Cash balances and exposures are based on settled and unsettled trades as at the reporting date.

Investment policy

The Fund invests at least two-thirds of its assets in a portfolio of shares (equities) and equity-related securities of companies, of any size, in any industry, in Continental Europe. Companies will have their registered office in or do most of their business (directly or through subsidiaries) in this region. The Fund may also invest in other assets including cash and money market instruments. The Investment Manager may use derivatives (complex financial instruments) to reduce risk or to manage the Fund more efficiently. The Fund is actively managed with reference to the MSCI Europe (ex UK) Index, which is broadly representative of the companies in which it may invest, as this can provide a useful comparator for assessing the Fund's performance. The Investment Manager has discretion to choose investments for the Fund with weightings different to the index or not in the index. Depending on prevailing market conditions the Fund's portfolio may shift between 'high conviction' (whereby the manager will take significant risk relative to the index) and a more cautious stance. This means the performance of the Fund may at times differ significantly from the index, while at other times it may be more closely aligned.

Investment strategy

The Investment Manager looks to anticipate catalysts for change in companies and industries based on fundamental research and thought leadership, in order to construct a portfolio of large companies complemented by mid-size company opportunities with the potential to enhance the Fund's overall returns. Smaller companies are not normally a significant focus of the portfolio.

Fund specific risks

Shares can lose value rapidly, and typically involve higher risks than bonds or money market instruments. The value of your investment may fall as a result. High exposure to a particular country or geographical region carries a higher level of risk than a more broadly diversified portfolio. Derivatives may be used with the aim of reducing risk or managing the portfolio more efficiently. However, this introduces other risks, in particular, that a derivative counterparty may not meet its contractual obligations. If the Fund holds assets in currencies other than the base currency of the Fund, or you invest in a share/unit class of a different currency to the Fund (unless hedged, i.e. seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements between the share/unit class currency and the base currency of the Fund), the value of your investment may be impacted by changes in exchange rates. When the Fund, or a share/unit class, seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements of a currency relative to the base currency (hedge), the hedging strategy itself may positively or negatively impact the value of the Fund due to differences in short-term interest rates between the currencies. Securities could become hard to value or to sell at a desired time and price, especially in extreme market conditions when asset prices may be falling, increasing the risk of investment losses. Losses could be incurred if a counterparty became unwilling or unable to meet its obligations, or as a result of failure or delay in operational processes or the failure of a third party provider.

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