

European equities accelerate rally and further decouple from the US

- MSCI Europe records an eighth consecutive month of positive performance
- Lower valuations versus US equities and solid earnings momentum support asset flows into European equities
- Fund up 3.7%, only marginally trailing the benchmark

Track record of Robeco European Stars Equities

	Fund	Index	Excess return
Last month	3.80%	4.05%	-0.26%
Year to date	5.78%	7.30%	-1.51%
1 year	9.89%	16.10%	-6.21%
3 year (ann.)	11.48%	14.02%	-2.54%
5 year (ann.)	10.69%	12.39%	-1.70%
10 year (ann.)	9.01%	9.38%	-0.37%
Since inception	7.76%	7.91%	-0.16%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The value of your investments may fluctuate.

Source: Robeco, MSCI. Portfolio: Robeco European Stars Equities D-EUR Share Class. *Index: MSCI Europe Index. All figures in EUR. Data end of February 2026. If the currency in which the past performance is displayed differs from the currency of the country in which you reside, then you should be aware that due to exchange rate fluctuations the performance shown may increase or decrease if converted into your local currency. Performance since inception is as of the first full month. Periods shorter than one year are not annualized. Returns gross of fees, based on gross asset value. Values and returns indicated here are before cost; the performance data does not take account of the commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. These have a negative effect on the returns shown. Upon request information on other share classes can be provided. Inception: July 1991

Market review and developments

In February, the MSCI Europe extended its strong rally, recording an eighth consecutive month of positive performance. With a robust gain of 4%, the European benchmark comfortably outpaced the S&P 500 index in the US, which traded flat in EUR terms during the month. The strong relative performance of European equities versus US equities was driven by continued asset flows from the richly valued US market into more favorably valued European markets.

Equity markets remained strongly narrative-driven in February, as AI disruption fears further weighed on capital-light, data-driven business models such as software and data analytics companies. Product enhancements

PORTFOLIO MANAGER'S UPDATE FEBRUARY 2026

Marketing material for professional investors, not for onward distribution



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by Claude from Anthropic, as well as reports and press releases from little-known research institutions and companies, amplified AI disruption fears. In addition, concerns that company defaults could rise in AI-disrupted sectors weighed on financials in general, and on companies with high exposure to private credit and private equity in particular. However, in the second half of the month, the apparent AI beneficiaries were also hit by worries about the heavy spending required to support AI infrastructure.

The narrative around a new acronym, HALO (heavy assets, low obsolescence), gained popularity and supported asset-heavy sectors and businesses linked to physical goods. Towards the end of the month, geopolitics once again came into market focus, but with no escalation by the final trading day, market implications remained limited.

The best-performing sectors in Europe were real estate, communication services, and consumer staples. Asset-heavy sectors such as energy and materials trailed the top performers by only a small margin. Within communication services, telecommunications stocks performed best, while food and beverage stocks drove performance in consumer staples.

Sectors that underperformed the MSCI Europe were financials, consumer discretionary, information technology, and health care. Within financials, payment companies and financial institutions with greater exposure to private markets were hit the hardest, while insurance companies and exchanges performed better. In information technology, the divergence between AI beneficiaries and AI-disadvantaged companies was particularly pronounced, with software and IT services companies at the bottom, while companies exposed to high AI-related capex posted strong gains.

While the US composite PMI declined further in February, its Eurozone counterpart continued to trend upward, converging towards the US level of near 52, which remains in expansionary territory. Solid Q4 earnings momentum on both sides of the Atlantic continues to support optimism. US consumer sentiment has decelerated further, but higher-income consumers remain in relatively good shape. However, if the Iran conflict were to drive inflation higher, pressure on consumers would increase.

Given the many moving parts, the direction of equity markets remains highly uncertain. What is clear, however, is that US markets are expensive in historical terms, while equity markets outside the US are approaching US valuation levels on a relative basis – warranting continued caution and a selective approach.

Last month's performance

The fund performed very strongly in February, returning 3.8%, although performance did not fully match the exceptional return of +4.1% for the MSCI Europe.

Good stock selection was more than offset by an overall negative allocation effect. Performance was strongest in health care, materials, and information technology, while industrials, financials, and consumer discretionary lagged the most.

Positive performance in health care was driven by the pharmaceutical holdings AstraZeneca and Novartis, as well as by not holding Novo Nordisk. The former two companies reported Q4 results in line with or slightly ahead of consensus expectations, and their very strong pipelines supported market confidence in management guidance. By contrast, Novo Nordisk continues to struggle with its GLP-1 franchise, which faces increasing competition from Eli Lilly as well as from US compounders that continue to offer semaglutide-based products at significantly lower prices.

Besides two of the best-performing stocks, AstraZeneca and Novartis, the weakest performance contribution also came from a health care holding, namely EssilorLuxottica. Very strong, above-consensus revenue growth in Q4,

driven by smart glasses, failed to lift sentiment, as fears of sustained margin dilution from rapidly growing smart-glasses sales and continued FX headwinds weighed on optimism.

Negative performance in financials was driven by the payment provider Adyen and the two bank holdings Erste Group and Barclays. Adyen declined sharply on the day of its second-half earnings release due to a slight miss in revenue growth and guidance that disappointed the market, despite continued strong underlying growth momentum. Both banks reported solid underlying profitability ahead of consensus expectations, but cautious guidance and uncertainty around loan losses weighed on the shares, which had performed strongly over the past 12 months leading into February.

Within the information technology sector, the fund's holding Halma rose by more than 15%, as the company is viewed as an AI beneficiary due to its exposure to data-center capital expenditure, while its other segments are relatively well protected from AI disruption. Performance of another strong contributor, Coca-Cola HBC, was driven by a surprisingly robust margin outlook and strong organic growth across the company's diverse geographic footprint.

Top ten active portfolio weights

Company	Portfolio Weight	Index Weight	Relative Weight
AstraZeneca PLC	5.0%	2.2%	2.8%
Linde plc	2.5%	0.0%	2.5%
Erste Group Bank AG	2.7%	0.2%	2.5%
Industria de Diseno Textil, S.A.	2.9%	0.5%	2.4%
Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.	3.0%	0.7%	2.3%
Barclays PLC	2.9%	0.6%	2.3%
Halma plc	2.5%	0.1%	2.3%
National Grid plc	2.9%	0.6%	2.3%
Novartis AG	4.4%	2.2%	2.2%
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2.2%	0.1%	2.1%

Source: Robeco, MSCI. Portfolio: Robeco European Stars Equities. Index: MSCI Europe Index. Data end of February 2026. The companies shown are for illustrative purposes only in order to demonstrate the investment strategy on the date stated. The companies are not necessarily held by a strategy/fund. No inference can be made on the future development of the company. This is not a buy, sell, or hold recommendation.

Our top active positions include AstraZeneca, Linde, and Erste Group Bank. AstraZeneca is one of the fastest-growing large-cap pharmaceutical companies, promising double-digit EPS growth over the next five years. Limited exposure to loss of exclusivity and a very strong, diversified pipeline support the ambitious management targets for 2030, which are not yet fully reflected by consensus estimates. In addition, the pharmaceutical sector is relatively well protected from AI disruption.

Portfolio changes

In February, the only addition to the fund was the French telecommunications services provider Orange. An initial position was established ahead of the company's annual results reporting, which coincided with its Capital Markets Day. The investment case is structured around expected upgrades to medium-term earnings estimates, which would support a further re-rating towards the sector-average free-cash-flow yield. In addition, the planned break-up of SFR would further improve competitive dynamics in the fiercely contested French telecom market.

Following the strong rally in the shares of the Danish freight-forwarding company DSV, we began to reduce the position, as the stock had reached the highest active weight in the portfolio. We also trimmed the position in Adyen ahead of its results and reduced exposure to stocks facing increased AI-related uncertainty.

Furthermore, we continued to build the position in EssilorLuxottica and added to commodity-exposed companies such as Rio Tinto and Epiroc.

Sector Allocation

Sector	Portfolio Weight	Index Weight	Relative Weight
Financials	20.1%	23.5%	-3.4%
Health Care	15.9%	13.8%	2.1%
Industrials	14.7%	19.7%	-4.9%
Information Technology	11.8%	7.6%	4.3%
Consumer Discretionary	9.8%	7.0%	2.8%
Materials	8.7%	5.4%	3.3%
Consumer Staples	6.5%	9.4%	-2.8%
Utilities	5.1%	5.0%	0.1%
Communication Services	4.6%	3.6%	1.0%
Energy	2.7%	4.4%	-1.7%
Real Estate	0.0%	0.8%	-0.8%

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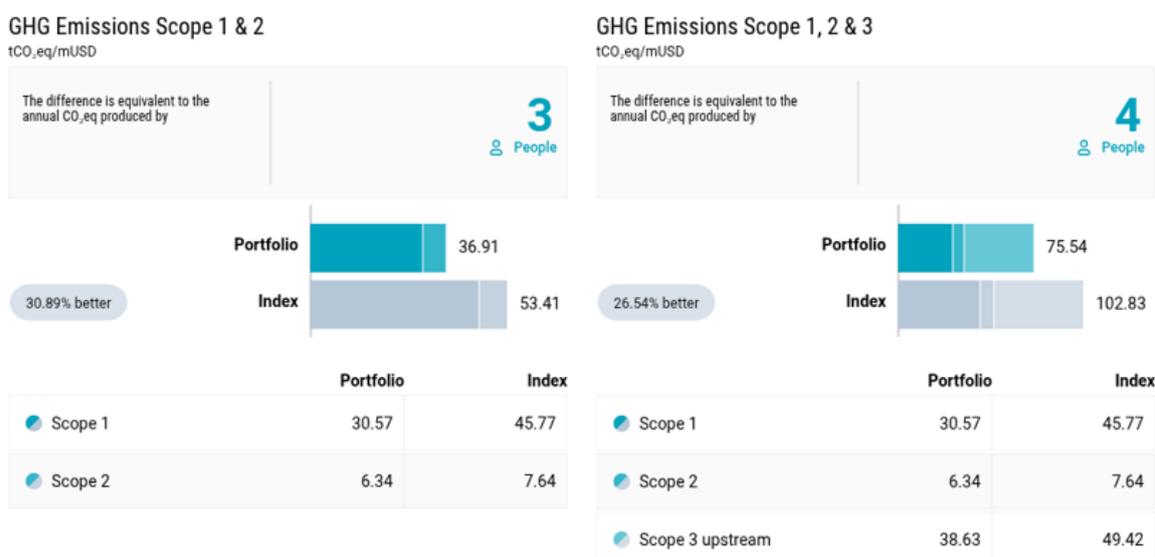
Some of our largest sector overweights are in information technology, consumer discretionary and materials. We have our largest underweights in financials, consumer staples and industrials. Our approach is based on the investment merits of stocks of individual companies with solid business models, while maintaining a high level of diversification across different business types. Our sector tilts are formed partly bottom up, and are the sum of our single-stock conviction ideas across all sectors, and partly from our ESG policies that favor certain industries over others.

Sustainable investing

Sustainability guides our entire investment approach. We go beyond one-off filters, screenings or back-end overlays, and integrate sustainability information into our fundamental analysis and valuation process, as it improves our understanding of companies' risk-reward profiles. The sustainability criteria and a company's ESG risk score are important input factors for our analysis of potential investments. Companies with a favorable ESG risk score and low environmental footprint are more likely to be included in the portfolio. The graph below compares the environmental impact of our portfolio to that of the benchmark. It shows that we score better in all three categories.

The fund aims for a better sustainability profile than the benchmark by promoting certain ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of the European Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation and integrating ESG and sustainability risks into the investment process.

Figure 1 - Environmental impact – footprint ownership



Data as of: 31-12-2025. **Source:** Robeco data based on Trucost data. S&P Global Market Intelligence data © Trucost 2026. All rights in the Trucost data and reports vest in Trucost and/or its licensors. Neither S&P Global Market Intelligence, nor its affiliates, nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors, omissions or interruptions in the Trucost data and/or reports. No further distribution of the Data and/or Reports is permitted without S&P Global Market Intelligence's express written consent. Reproduction of any information, data or material, including ratings is prohibited. The content is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold such investment or security, nor does it address suitability of an investment or security and should not be relied on as investment advice. **Portfolio:** Robeco European Stars Equities. **Index:** MSCI Europe Index

Carbon footprint expresses the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emission consumption per invested amount for the portfolio. We calculate each company's carbon footprint by dividing the company's total GHG emissions by its enterprise value including cash (EVIC). A company's total GHG emissions can be broken into Scope 1, 2, and 3. Scope 1 represents the direct emissions created by the company's activities. Scope 2 represents the indirect emissions from the production of the electricity or heat used, and Scope 3 represents the indirect emissions from creating products and services (upstream activities). The portfolio's aggregate carbon footprint is calculated as a weighted average by multiplying each assessed portfolio component's carbon footprint figure with its respective position weight. Only holdings mapped as corporates are included in the figures. A portfolio that has a lower carbon footprint than the index is less resource intensive per invested amount since less carbon intensive performing companies use fewer resources per invested amount.

Outlook

The fund's strategy aims to invest in high-quality companies that have sustainable, differentiated business models, taking a full-cycle view. Given that approach, we expect the fund to show its full strength when returns on individual stocks start to differ materially due to reduced overall market support. The fund's positions tend to be based on company-specific qualities that are likely to endure in both positive and negative environments, rather than on assumptions concerning general market trends. Given expected business resilience and comparatively moderate valuations, our key convictions can give comfort in volatile times.

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