

# European equities rise as energy sector leads gains

- Energy and financial sectors drive positive returns in July
- Technology sector faces sharp corrections amid semiconductor declines
- Defensive portfolio with stable stocks at attractive valuation and yield levels

In July 2026, the European Conservative Equities strategy recorded a return of 1.26%, outperforming the MSCI Europe Index, which returned 0.97%. This resulted in an excess return of 0.29%. The strategy's focus on conservative investments has proven effective, highlighting its ability to navigate market conditions favorably.

**Table 1** – Performance of Robeco QI European Conservative Equities B-share ("Fund") (inception September 2007 – gross of fees)

| Performance (EUR)                                       | Jul/26 | YTD    | 1 year | 3 year | Since inception<br>(September 2007) | Volatility since<br>inception | Return/volatility<br>since inception |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| European Conservative Equities                          | 1.26%  | 12.59% | 19.46% | 15.16% | 7.08%                               | 11.11%                        | 0.64                                 |
| MSCI Europe Index                                       | 0.97%  | 11.82% | 22.09% | 14.00% | 5.65%                               | 14.68%                        | 0.38                                 |
| MSCI Europe Minimum Volatility Index<br>(EUR optimized) | 2.12%  | 9.18%  | 12.54% | 11.27% | 5.71%                               | 11.26%                        | 0.51                                 |

**Source:** Robeco Performance Measurement. All figures are gross of fees. In reality, costs such as management fees and other costs are charged. These have a negative effect on the returns shown. These figures are preliminary based on the most recent month's performance results. These numbers may deviate from the final performance figures. The value of your investment may fluctuate. Results obtained in the past are no guarantee of future performance.

## 1. Market developments

European equities managed to post a positive return in July, outperforming most other regions. Energy was the strongest-performing sector as oil prices rose on renewed tensions in the Middle East, while Financials also performed well, led by double-digit gains for index heavyweight HSBC.

The technology sector, however, suffered a significant correction. ASML fell 17% after reports that a Chinese state-backed company had begun manufacturing DUV lithography machines. The weakness spread across the semiconductor ecosystem, with Infineon (-24%), ASM International (-20%), STMicroelectronics (-29%) and BESIX (-31%) all posting steep declines. In contrast, software giant SAP rebounded 18%, benefiting from the broader recovery in global software stocks.

These sharp rotations resulted in a weak month for the momentum factor. Even so, factor return dispersion remained relatively modest in Europe, particularly compared with the much wider dispersion observed in the US and emerging markets.

### PORTFOLIO MANAGER'S UPDATE - JULY 2026

Marketing material for professional investors,  
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From left to right: Pim van Vliet, Arlette van Ditschuijzen, Maarten Polfiet, Jan Sytze Mosselaar, Arnoud Klep



Table 2 – Market dashboard

| Market dashboard     | 1M    | YTD   | Local return   | 1M     | YTD   | EUR sector returns     | 1M     | YTD   | Factors (EUR)  | 1M    | YTD   |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
| MSCI World Equal USD | 2.0%  | 10.7% | United Kingdom | 3.9%   | 11.8% | Energy                 | 15.8%  | 38.1% | Value          | 4.0%  | 15.4% |
| MSCI Europe USD      | 1.6%  | 9.5%  | Sweden         | 3.1%   | 10.3% | Financials             | 5.9%   | 17.2% | High Dividend  | 3.8%  | 13.1% |
| MSCI Europe EUR      | 1.0%  | 11.8% | Italy          | 2.8%   | 16.9% | Communication Services | 4.5%   | 0.8%  | Small caps     | 3.1%  | 8.7%  |
| MSCI World USD       | 0.5%  | 10.3% | Spain          | 2.6%   | 17.5% | Real Estate            | 2.7%   | 4.9%  | Equal-weighted | 2.5%  | 11.2% |
| MSCI World local     | 0.2%  | 10.6% | Germany        | 2.5%   | 4.2%  | Materials              | 2.0%   | 15.1% | MinVol         | 2.1%  | 9.2%  |
| S&P 500 USD          | -0.1% | 10.1% | France         | 1.3%   | 7.0%  | Consumer Staples       | 1.9%   | 6.7%  | Market         | 1.0%  | 11.8% |
| MSCI World EUR       | -0.1% | 12.5% | Switzerland    | 0.6%   | 10.1% | Consumer Discretionary | 1.1%   | -9.0% | Quality        | -0.1% | 7.6%  |
| S&P 500 EUR          | -0.7% | 12.2% | Denmark        | -0.3%  | 0.6%  | Industrials            | -0.0%  | 11.6% | Momentum       | -1.2% | 8.9%  |
| MSCI EM USD          | -3.1% | 20.0% | Belgium        | -2.5%  | 15.5% | Health Care            | -1.6%  | 2.2%  | Growth         | -1.7% | 5.5%  |
| MSCI EM EUR          | -3.7% | 22.5% | Finland        | -5.6%  | 11.7% | Utilities              | -1.7%  | 15.8% |                |       |       |
| MSCI EM Local        | -4.3% | 21.3% | Netherlands    | -10.0% | 28.9% | Information Technology | -13.5% | 28.5% |                |       |       |

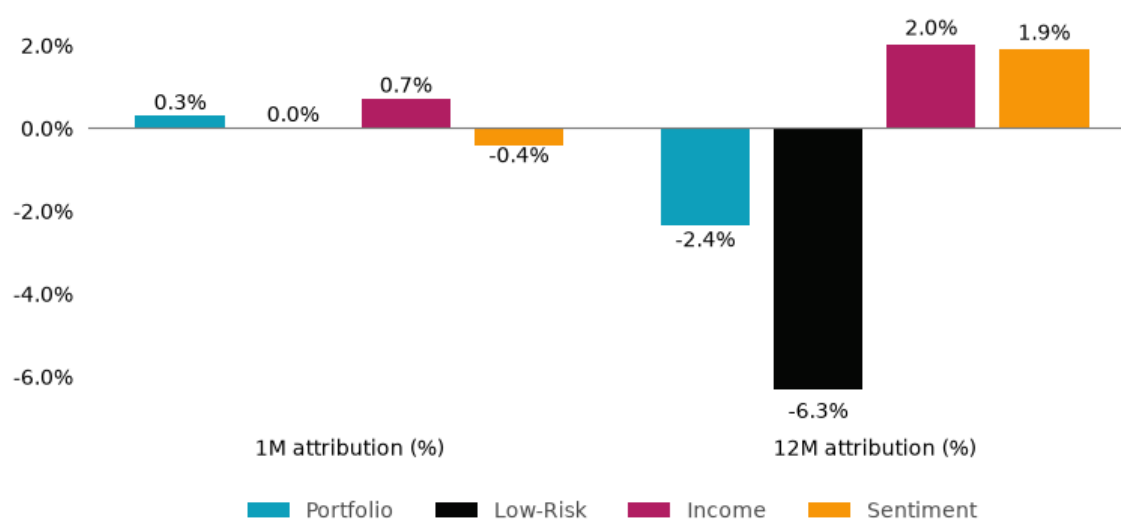
Source: Robeco, MSCI, Bloomberg.

## 2. Performance attribution

Last month, our portfolio outperformed the benchmark, primarily driven by a strong contribution from income. Risk had a neutral impact, while sentiment acted as a detractor.

Over the past 12 months, the portfolio experienced an overall underperformance. Income and sentiment were the key contributors, positively impacting the relative return. However, low-risk was a significant detractor during this period.

Figure 1 – Factor attribution



Source: Robeco Performance Measurement. The figures show relative portfolio returns versus the index. The relative portfolio return is gross of fees and net of transaction costs and is the sum of the allocation effect and stock selection contribution, excluding cash & other. The relative portfolio return is entirely attributed to underlying Robeco factors. All stocks in the portfolio and index are ranked on Robeco factors and grouped into five market value-weighted quintiles. The portfolio factor exposures are averages over the previous month. The returns are over the whole period.

**Table 3 – Top contributors – Top detractors**

| Name                  | Effect | Country        | Sector                 | Active Weight | Return  | Index Return |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| Infineon Technologies | 0.22%  | Germany        | Information Technology | -0.73%        | 0.00%   | -24.49%      |
| ASML                  | 0.20%  | Netherlands    | Information Technology | -1.04%        | -16.59% | -16.59%      |
| Shell Plc             | 0.17%  | United Kingdom | Energy                 | 1.23%         | 16.23%  | 16.23%       |
| TotalEnergies         | 0.16%  | France         | Energy                 | 1.50%         | 12.33%  | 12.33%       |
| Nokia Oyj             | 0.15%  | Finland        | Information Technology | -0.40%        | 0.00%   | -30.90%      |

| Name                            | Effect | Country        | Sector                 | Active Weight | Return  | Index Return |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| BP PLC                          | -0.13% | United Kingdom | Energy                 | -0.76%        | 0.00%   | 19.18%       |
| Plus500                         | -0.18% | United Kingdom | Financials             | 0.91%         | -17.69% | -17.69%      |
| SAP                             | -0.19% | Germany        | Information Technology | -1.20%        | 0.00%   | 17.67%       |
| ABB                             | -0.19% | Switzerland    | Industrials            | 1.59%         | -10.04% | -10.04%      |
| Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson | -0.19% | Sweden         | Information Technology | 1.32%         | -12.55% | -12.55%      |

**Source:** Robeco Performance Measurement and MSCI.

### 3. Positioning

Robeco QI European Conservative Equities selects from an investable universe of around 1,200 European stocks, buying securities with low-risk characteristics, such as low volatility, low market sensitivity, and low distress risk. Simultaneously, these low-risk stocks are characterized by attractive valuations, a high and stable dividend, positive price momentum, and favorable analyst revisions.

**Figure 2 – Sector and country positioning matrix**

|                        | Norway | Portugal | Switzerland | Finland | Sweden | Belgium | Spain | Netherlands | France | United Kingdom | Germany | Total |
|------------------------|--------|----------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|-------|-------------|--------|----------------|---------|-------|
| <b>Positioning</b>     |        |          |             |         |        |         |       |             |        |                |         |       |
| Real Estate            |        |          | 4.0         |         |        |         |       |             | 0.6    |                |         | 4.4   |
| Financials             | 2.2    |          | -0.5        | 3.1     | 2.6    | 0.6     | -1.1  | 0.4         | -0.7   | -2.5           | 1.3     | 4.3   |
| Communication Services |        | 0.8      | 0.7         |         |        |         |       | 0.8         | 0.9    | -0.4           |         | 4.2   |
| Consumer Staples       | 0.8    | 1.0      | -2.1        |         |        | -0.6    | 1.5   | 0.9         |        |                | 1.1     | 2.5   |
| Energy                 | -0.3   |          |             |         |        |         |       | 0.3         | 2.3    | 0.5            |         | 2.4   |
| Health Care            |        |          | 1.1         |         |        | -0.3    | 0.3   |             | 0.9    | 2.0            | -1.0    | 1.8   |
| Utilities              |        | 0.8      |             |         |        |         | 1.6   |             | -0.6   | -1.1           | -0.6    |       |
| Information Technology |        |          |             |         | 1.2    |         |       | -1.5        | -0.5   |                | -2.0    | -2.9  |
| Materials              |        | 0.6      | -0.9        |         |        |         |       |             | -1.1   | -1.5           | -0.7    | -4.4  |
| Consumer Discretionary |        |          | -1.0        |         |        |         | -0.7  | -0.4        | -1.8   | -0.8           | -0.9    | -5.7  |
| Industrials            | 0.9    |          | 1.5         |         | -2.4   | 0.9     | -0.4  | -0.3        | -3.2   | -1.6           | -2.9    | -6.9  |
| <b>Total</b>           | 3.6    | 3.1      | 2.8         | 2.8     | 1.5    | 0.7     | 0.7   |             | -3.4   | -5.6           | -5.6    |       |

**Source:** Robeco. Figures show relative portfolio positioning versus the index. Only the largest countries are shown. Sector totals include all countries. Only relative positions of >0.25%/<-0.25% are highlighted. Excludes cash positions.

**Table 4 – Portfolio exposures**

| Relatively large portfolio weight |                                                                                                                                                                     | Relatively small portfolio weight |                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Real Estate (Switzerland)         | Strong low-risk profile supported by low volatility, alongside positive momentum. Key overweighted holding: Intershop.                                              | Industrials (France)              | Neutral earnings revisions. Key underweighted securities include Airbus and VINCI.                                                     |
| Financials (Finland)              | Strong low-risk profile supported by low volatility, alongside attractive value characteristics driven by a low price/earnings ratio.                               | Industrials (Germany)             | Weak value characteristics, driven by a high price/earnings multiple. Key underweighted securities include Siemens and Siemens Energy. |
| Financials (Sweden)               | Strong low-risk characteristics, supported by low distress risk, alongside positive momentum versus the benchmark. No specific overweighted securities were listed. | Financials (United Kingdom)       | Weak risk profile, driven by high beta. Key underweighted securities include Barclays PLC and Lloyds Banking Group plc.                |

Source: Robeco.

The fund is characterized by a portfolio of low-risk stocks, offering high and stable dividends and a price-to-earnings ratio lower than the market. A comparison of various characteristics of the portfolio versus those of its benchmark – the MSCI Europe – shows a consistent picture, where the strategy remains well-positioned towards the model factors.

Given these characteristics, we firmly believe the strategy is well-positioned to continue harvesting the model factor premiums in European Markets.

**Table 5 – Portfolio characteristics**

| June 2026                               | Portfolio | MSCI Europe | MSCI Minvol |                                                                                      | Portfolio | MSCI Europe | MSCI Minvol |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Risk: Statistical &amp; Distress</b> |           |             |             | <b>Active Positioning</b>                                                            |           |             |             |
| Volatility (holdings-based 3y)          | 20.5%     | 27.1%       | 21.5%       | Number of securities                                                                 | 119       | 397         | 191         |
| Beta (holdings-based 3y)                | 0.7       | 1           | 0.7         | Active share                                                                         | 70.4%     | -           | 54.0%       |
| Distance-to-default                     | 6.3       | 4.8         | 5.9         | Off benchmark                                                                        | 26.1%     | -           | -           |
|                                         |           |             |             | Expected Turnover                                                                    | 25.0%     | -           | 20.0%       |
|                                         |           |             |             | Realized Turnover                                                                    | 10.0%     | 4.0%        | 18.0%       |
| <b>Income &amp; Sentiment</b>           |           |             |             |                                                                                      |           |             |             |
| Dividend yield                          | 3.9%      | 2.8%        | 3.4%        |                                                                                      |           |             |             |
| Net payout yield                        | 4.6%      | 3.5%        | 3.8%        |                                                                                      |           |             |             |
| Price/Earnings                          | 15.9      | 17.8        | 18.5        | <b>Sustainability</b>                                                                |           |             |             |
| Price momentum (12-1M)                  | 28.6%     | 31.6%       | 17.5%       | Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating                                                       | 16.7      | 16.9        | 17.6        |
| Earnings revisions (3M, % net positive) | 60.2%     | 64.9%       | 57.2%       | GhG emissions (t CO2-eq/mUSD)                                                        | 93.7      | 109.5       | 121.6       |
|                                         |           |             |             | Positive SDG exposure                                                                | 78.9%     | 72.1%       | 71.9%       |
| <b>Market capitalization</b>            |           |             |             | <b>Summary</b>                                                                       |           |             |             |
| >10 bn USD                              | 74.9%     | 98.0%       | 96.8%       | Aims to offer lower absolute risk than market, similar absolute risk to MinVol index |           |             |             |
| 2-10 bn USD                             | 22.8%     | 2.0%        | 3.2%        | Increased opportunity set with small/mid-caps and higher dividend yield than market  |           |             |             |
| <2 bn USD                               | 2.4%      | 0           | 0           | Active portfolio with low turnover                                                   |           |             |             |

**Source:** Robeco, FactSet, MSCI. Figures are holdings-based. The fund aims for a better sustainability profile compared to the benchmark by promoting certain sustainability characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of the European Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation and integrating sustainability in the investment process. More specifically, the binding elements as per the prospectus and sustainability disclosure (SFDR disclosure) pertain to applying the Robeco Level 1 exclusion list, targeting a Sustainalytics ESG risk rating that is better than the benchmark (the Sustainalytics ESG risk rating offers insight into company-level ESG risk by measuring the size of an organization's unmanaged ESG risk, a lower score refers to a better overall sustainability profile), and pursuing better carbon (as measured by greenhouse gas emissions), waste and water footprints than the benchmark. Turnover figures are calculated one-way/annum since inception of the portfolio (based on full calendar years only).

Table 6 below shows the current main over- and underweights as a result of our bottom-up stock-selection process.

The portfolio's largest overweight positions were in Nordea Bank Abp at 1.66% and GSK plc at 1.60%. Conversely, the most underweighted securities included Nestle at -1.89% and Siemens at -1.65%.

**Table 6** – Main active over and underweights of the funds

| Name                       | Sector           | Country        | Active Weight |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Nordea Bank Abp            | Financials       | Finland        | 1.66%         |
| GSK plc                    | Health Care      | United Kingdom | 1.60%         |
| ABB                        | Industrials      | Switzerland    | 1.59%         |
| Sanofi                     | Health Care      | France         | 1.54%         |
| CaixaBank                  | Financials       | Spain          | 1.53%         |
| TotalEnergies              | Energy           | France         | 1.50%         |
| Allianz                    | Financials       | Germany        | 1.48%         |
| Sampo Oyj                  | Financials       | Finland        | 1.45%         |
| Swedbank                   | Financials       | Sweden         | 1.44%         |
| Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize | Consumer Staples | Netherlands    | 1.40%         |

| Name                            | Sector                 | Country        | Active Weight |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Nestle                          | Consumer Staples       | Switzerland    | -1.89%        |
| Siemens                         | Industrials            | Germany        | -1.65%        |
| Banco Santander                 | Financials             | Spain          | -1.41%        |
| Schneider Electric              | Industrials            | France         | -1.20%        |
| SAP                             | Information Technology | Germany        | -1.20%        |
| UBS                             | Financials             | Switzerland    | -1.18%        |
| Novo Nordisk A/S                | Health Care            | Denmark        | -1.14%        |
| Rolls Royce Holdings plc        | Industrials            | United Kingdom | -1.14%        |
| ASML                            | Information Technology | Netherlands    | -1.04%        |
| Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria | Financials             | Spain          | -1.03%        |

**Source:** Robeco.

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**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Malaysia**

Generally, no offer or sale of the Shares is permitted in Malaysia unless where a Recognition Exemption or the Prospectus Exemption applies: NO ACTION HAS BEEN, OR WILL BE, TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH MALAYSIAN LAWS FOR MAKING AVAILABLE, OFFERING FOR SUBSCRIPTION OR PURCHASE, OR ISSUING ANY INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE FOR OR PURCHASE OR SALE OF THE SHARES IN MALAYSIA OR TO PERSONS IN MALAYSIA AS THE SHARES ARE NOT INTENDED BY THE ISSUER TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, OR MADE THE SUBJECT OF ANY OFFER OR INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE OR PURCHASE, IN MALAYSIA. NEITHER THIS DOCUMENT NOR ANY DOCUMENT OR OTHER MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHARES SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED, CAUSED TO BE DISTRIBUTED OR CIRCULATED IN MALAYSIA. NO PERSON SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE OR MAKE ANY INVITATION OR OFFER OR INVITATION TO SELL OR PURCHASE THE SHARES IN MALAYSIA UNLESS SUCH PERSON TAKES THE NECESSARY ACTION TO COMPLY WITH MALAYSIAN LAWS.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Mexico**

The funds have not been and will not be registered with the National Registry of Securities or maintained by the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission and, as a result, may not be offered or sold publicly in Mexico. Robeco and any underwriter or purchaser may offer and sell the funds in Mexico on a private placement basis to Institutional and Accredited Investors, pursuant to Article 8 of the Mexican Securities Market Law.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Peru**

The Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores (SMV) does not exercise any supervision over this Fund and therefore the management of it. The information the Fund provides to its investors and the other services it provides to them are the sole responsibility of the Administrator. This Prospectus is not for public distribution.

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**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Spain**

Robeco Institucional Asset Management B.V., Sucursal en España with identification number W0032687F and having its registered office in Madrid at Calle Serrano 47-14º, is registered with the Spanish Commercial Registry in Madrid, in volume 19.957, page 190, section 8, sheet M-351927 and with the National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) in the Official Register of branches of European investment services companies, under number 24. The investment funds or SICAV mentioned in this document are regulated by the corresponding authorities of their country of origin and are registered in the Special Registry of the CNMV of Foreign Collective Investment Institutions marketed in Spain.

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**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Taiwan**

The Funds may be made available outside Taiwan for purchase outside Taiwan by Taiwan resident investors, but may not be offered or sold in Taiwan. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Taiwan. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Thailand**

The Prospectus has not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission which takes no responsibility for its contents. No offer to the public to purchase the Shares will be made in Thailand and the Prospectus is intended to be read by the addressee only and must not be passed to, issued to, or shown to the public generally.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the United Arab Emirates**

Some Funds referred to in this marketing material have been registered with the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority ("the Authority"). Details of all Registered Funds can be found on the Authority's website. The Authority assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information set out in this material/document, nor for the failure of any persons engaged in the investment Fund in performing their duties and responsibilities.

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**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Uruguay**

The sale of the Fund qualifies as a private placement pursuant to section 2 of Uruguayan law 18,627. The Fund must not be offered or sold to the public in Uruguay, except under circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under Uruguayan laws and regulations. The Fund is not and will not be registered with the Financial Services Superintendency of the Central Bank of Uruguay. The Fund corresponds to investment funds that are not investment funds regulated by Uruguayan law 16,774 dated 27 September 1996, as amended.