

# COMGEST GROWTH GLOBAL FLEX EUR R ACC - IEOOBZOX9R35

NAV per share: €14.46

31 March 2024

## **KEY DIFFERENTIATORS**

- Quality comes first, we seek growth that can endure
- Team-based approach, rather than starmanager fund, which we believe leads to greater consistency
- ESG integrated into the investment process leveraging proprietary ESG research
- Culture matters. Comgest's broad partnership structure incentivises long-term thinking, an ESG mindset, teamwork and low employee turnover

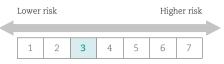
## INVESTMENT TEAM



Alexandre Narboni, Schlomy Botbol, Laure Negiar Léo Lenel

Team may include advisors from affiliates within the Comgest Group.

## RISK PROFILE



The indicator represents the risk profile presented in the PRIIPs Key Information Document. The indicator assumes you keep the product for 5 years otherwise the actual risk can vary significantly.

## **INVESTMENT POLICY**

The objective of the Sub-Fund ("the Fund") is to increase the value of the Fund (capital appreciation) over the long term. The Fund intends to achieve this objective through investment in a portfolio of international and diversified, long-term growth companies. The Fund will invest on a global basis in shares and preferred shares issued by companies quoted or traded on regulated markets. The Fund will adopt a 'hedging strategy' using exchange traded equity and volatility index futures. The aim of the hedging strategy is to partially offset loss that may result from a decline in the price of shares held by the Fund. The Fund may use fx forwards with the aim of limiting the effect that changes in foreign exchange rates may have on the value of the Fund. The Fund is actively managed.

The Fund is aimed at investors with a long-term investment horizon (typically 5 years or more).

## **CUMULATIVE PAST PERFORMANCE (REBASED TO 100)**



## **RATINGS** (AS AT 29/02/2024)



Morningstar Category: EAA Fund EUR Flexible Allocation - Global (Number of funds in Category: 3739)

## SFDR CLASSIFICATION: Article 8

The Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

## **ROLLING PERFORMANCE (%)**

## Annualised

	1 Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Incep.
Fund	0.3	7.7	7.7	15.7	4.7	4.5		5.9

## **CALENDAR YEAR PAST PERFORMANCE (%)**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fund	2.6	12.0	2.9	9.0	-12.6	12.0

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%) AS AT QUARTER END

	1Q18	1Q19	1Q20	1Q21	1Q22	1Q23	
	-1Q19	-1Q20	-1Q21	-1Q22	-1Q23	-1Q24	
Fund	10.1	-2.8	11.5	0.2	-1.0	15.8	

Performance data expressed in EUR. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

## Past performance does not predict future returns.

Performance figures are calculated net of investment management fees, administrative fees and all other fees with the exception of sales charges. If taken into account, sales charges would have a negative impact on performance.

The cumulative graph and "Since Inception" data may refer to the last relaunch date of the share class which may differ from its actual inception date. Calendar year past performance is only shown for years for which a full calendar year of past performance is available.



## COMGEST GROWTH GLOBAL FLEX **EUR R ACC - IEOOBZOX9R35**

## 31 March 2024

## **FUND COMMENTARY**

In the first quarter of 2024, the market showed increasing optimism for a soft landing as economic indicators remained resilient with inflation slowing down, while the US Federal Reserve could lead the way into lower interest rates later this year. Most major regional indices reported positive performance during the

The equity hedging had a limited negative contribution to performance over the quarter, despite the strong rally of global equities in local currency (MSCI ACWI TR index +9.5%), thanks to its low average hedging rate of 22%. The hedging rate slightly decreased, from 29% at the end of Q4 2023 to 21% at the end of Q1 2024, and remained relatively low and stable throughout the quarter, within a narrow range between 16% and 29%. Only a few strategies present in the model displayed cautious signals, contributing to a reasonable hedging level across regions being maintained. These were notably the volatility risk premium contrarian strategy and the fundamental data-driven strategy which captures the trend on earnings-per-share ratios. Most of the strategies remained positive across the regions, with the long-term market trend capture (ex-China), the credit risk, and the volatility regime strategies contributing the most to softening the hedging rates. The capture of performance dispersion between the different geographies showed good results as China remained the most hedged, with the Hang Seng index performing the worst over the quarter. In contrast, Europe ex-UK was the least hedged regional exposure, with the EuroStoxx 50 index ranking among the top performers.

The currency hedging had a negative contribution to performance as the US dollar, which represents more than half of the equity portfolio's currency exposure, strengthened against the euro by +2.3% over the quarter while being hedged on average at 76%. Both the US and Hong Kong dollars suffered from a lack of trend and market direction against the euro and range traded over the quarter. This was challenging for our dynamic hedging. Nevertheless, the model continued to capture well the downtrend of the Japanese yen against the euro as it depreciated by 4.6% while being hedged at 69% on average. However, it lagged during the sharp reversal of the Swiss franc which weakened by 4.5% against the euro and was hedged at 17% on average. At the end of the first quarter, the US dollar, the Japanese yen and the Swiss franc were hedged at 75% and the Hong Kong dollar at 100%

Over the first quarter, the equity portfolio outperformed, and we are pleased that this was largely driven by our stock selection rather than country or sector over the list quarter, the equity portions outperformed, and we are pleased that this was largery driven by our stock selection rather than contributors allocation. Eli Lilly, ASML and TSMC were among the main contributors to portfolio performance. Eli Lilly, a global leader in pharmaceutical treatments for diabetes and obesity, released a solid outlook for 2024 and continues to benefit from constructive research reports and clinical trials supporting a large global GLP-1 "diabesity" (diabetes and obesity) market opportunity. ASML, the sole provider of EUV lithography globally, and TSMC, the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer, both posted reassuring 2024 outlooks and shared increasingly optimistic views on the semiconductor cycle recovery as well as the opportunities from Al. HDFC Bank, AIA and Zoetis were among the main detractors from performance this quarter. HDFC, a leading bank and financial services company in India, suffered from a significant derating as investors worry about its ability to grow deposits in line with expectations amid a challenging macro environment. Likewise, AIA, the leading Pan-Asian insurer, was hurt by the negative sentiment around the Chinese economy despite its latest results showing solid fundamentals. Zoetis, a leading animal healthcare provider, slightly disappointed on its results and its 2024 full year guidance. Few portfolio moves were made this quarter. We reduced HDFC Bank (due to higher complexity and lower visibility of earnings post its merger with HDFC Ltd), NetEase, Adyen (both after strong year-to-date performance), Costco, Shin-Etsu and Recruit (all on valuation grounds). The proceeds were used to reinforce our positions in Zoetis, Nike and S&P Global as we prudently build these positions.

Overall, global financial markets have started 2024 on a positive note. However, geopolitical tensions and uncertainties around the health of the global economy remain and could create some volatility. The equity portfolio remains focused on its quality growth philosophy and valuation discipline, which we believe provides above-market growth with better visibility and resilience, especially in unsettled economic times.

The views expressed in this document are valid at the time of publication only, do not constitute independent investment research and should not be interpreted as investment advice. The reference to specific companies does not constitute a recommendation to invest directly in these securities. Allocation is subject to change without notice. Remember that past performance does not predict future returns.

## **RISKS**

This Fund has the following core inherent risks (non-exhaustive list):

- Investing involves risk including possible loss of principal.

  The value of all investments and the income derived therefrom can decrease as well as increase.
- There is no assurance that the investment objective of the Fund will be achieved.
- There is no assurance that hedging transactions will be effective or beneficial or that a hedge will be in place at any given time.
- To the extent that the Fund is invested in or denominated in a currency other than yours, the cost and return in your currency may increase or decrease due to exchange rate fluctuations.
- The Fund invests in emerging markets which tend to be more volatile than mature markets and the value of investments can therefore move sharply up or
- A more detailed description of the risk factors that apply to the Fund is set out in the Prospectus.

## Please see important information on following pages.

Issued by Comgest Asset Management International Limited, 46 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland - info@comgest.com Source: CAMIL / FactSet financial data and analytics, unless otherwise stated. All information and performance data is as at 31/03/2024, unless otherwise indicated, and is unaudited.

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## **COMGEST GROWTH GLOBAL FLEX EUR R ACC - IEOOBZOX9R35**

## 31 March 2024

## **PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS**

**SECTOR BREAKDOWN (%)** 

Total Net Assets (all classes, m)	€75.8
Number of holdings	35
Average weighted market cap (bn)	€495.8
Weight of top 10 stocks	47.2%
Holdings exclude cash, cash equivalents and derivatives (futures and FX forwards)	

	Long
Information Technology	26.2
Health Care	24.2
Financials	10.4
Materials	8.2
Industrials	7.8
Consumer Staples	7.8
Consumer Discretionary	7.7
Communication Services	5.2
[Cash]	2.6
Energy	
Utilities	
Real Estate	
Source: Comgest / GICS sector classification	

## **TOP 5 EQUITY HOLDINGS (%)**

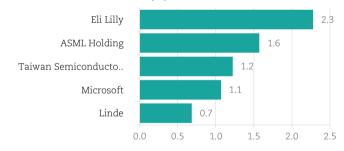
	Fund
Microsoft	7.3
Eli Lilly	7.1
ASML Holding	5.9
Linde	4.8
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	4.2
Above holdings are provided for information only, are subject to change and are not a recommendation to buy or sell	

## **REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (%)**

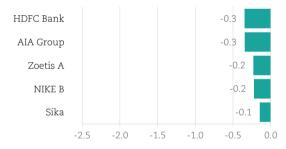
	Long	Net
United States	44.3	35.9
Europe	34.8	29.6
Emerging Markets	10.6	7.6
Japan	6.5	5.7
Others	1.2	1.2
Total Exposure	97.4	79.9

Source: Congest / MSCI country classification
Long exposure reflects equity exposure while net exposure includes short equity index futures used for hedging purposes

## **TOP 5 QTD CONTRIBUTORS (%)**



## **BOTTOM 5 QTD CONTRIBUTORS (%)**





# COMGEST GROWTH GLOBAL FLEX EUR R ACC - IEOOBZOX9R35

## 31 March 2024

## **CURRENCY BREAKDOWN (%)**

USD

EUR

CHE

JPY

HKD

# Long Net 54.6 13.7 21.3 75.6 6.9 1.7 6.5 1.5

4.0

## **CURRENCY BREAKDOWN (%) - CONT.**

	Long	Net
GBP	3.4	3.4
CNY	2.3	2.3
INR	1.3	1.3

Breakdown based on currencies in which holdings are priced. Net exposure includes whilst long exposure excludes FX forwards used for currency hedging purposes.

0.5

## **AVERAGE SHORT EXPOSURE TO EQUITY INDEX FUTURES (%)**



The above graph displays the average short positions in equity index futures over each of the past 12 months. The Fund uses equity index futures which are correlated to the fund's portfolio of equity positions to attempt to hedge against market risk. The hedging level is determined by a number of proprietary quantitative indicators.

## STATISTICAL DATA

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Incep.
Annualised volatility (%)	8.5	8.8	9.4		9.2
Sharpe ratio	1.4	0.4	0.4		0.6
Max. drawdown (%)	-7.5	-14.5	-15.4		-15.4

The above Statistical Data table is calculated using daily performance data.

The risk-free instrument used to calculate the above Sharpe Ratio is the Euribor 3-month interest rate.

Performance data expressed in EUR. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

## Past performance does not predict future returns.

Performance figures are calculated net of investment management fees, administrative fees and all other fees with the exception of sales charges. If taken into account, sales charges would have a negative impact on performance.

The cumulative graph and "Since Inception" data may refer to the last relaunch date of the share class which may differ from its actual inception date. Calendar year past performance is only shown for years for which a full calendar year of past performance is available.



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## 31 March 2024

## **FUND DETAILS**

ISIN: IE00BZ0X9R35 Bloomberg: COMGERE ID Domicile: Ireland

Dividend Policy: Accumulation Fund Base Currency: EUR Share Class Currency: EUR **Inception Date: 11/10/2017** 

Ongoing Charges: 2.05% p.a of the NAV Investment Manager's Fees (part of ongoing

charges): 1.80% p.a of the NAV Maximum Sales Charge: 2.00%

Exit Charge: None

Minimum Initial Investment: EUR 10

Minimum Holding: None

## Contact for Subscriptions and Redemptions:

CACEIS Investor Services Ireland Limited Dublin\_TA\_Customer\_Support@caceis.com Tel: +353 1 440 6555 / Fax: +353 1 613 0401

Dealing Frequency: Any business day (D) when banks in Dublin are open for business

Cut Off: 5:00 pm Irish time on day D-1 An earlier deadline for receipt of application or redemption requests may apply if your request is sent through a third party. Please enquire with your local representative, distributor or other third party

NAV: Calculated using closing prices of D

NAV Known: D+1 Settlement: D+3

Legal Structure: Comgest Growth Global Flex, a sub-fund of Comgest Growth plc (an open-ended investment company with variable capital authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland), is an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS)

Management Company: None as Comgest Growth plc is self-managed

Investment Manager: Comgest Asset Management International Limited (CAMIL) Regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland and registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission SEC registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training

Sub-Investment Manager: Comgest S.A. (CSA) Regulated by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers - GP 90023

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the fund prospectus and to the PRIIPS KID before making any final investment decisions. UK investors should refer to the UCITS KIID. Tax applicable to an investment depends on individual circumstances. Depending on where you live, the Fund may not be available to you for subscription. In particular this Fund cannot be offered or sold publicly in the United States. Consult your financial or professional adviser for more information on

The Prospectus, the PRIIPS KID, the UCITS KIID (UK investors), the latest annual and interim reports and any country specific addendums can be obtained free of charge from the Investment Manager (at www.comgest.com) or the Administrator and from local representatives/paying agents listed below. For a full list of the local representatives/paying agents please contact Comgest at info@camil.com. Prospectus may be available in English, French or German and the PRIIPS KIDs in a language

- United Kingdom: BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Limited, Facilities Agency Services, c/o Company Secretarial Department, 10 Harewood Avenue, London, NW1 6AA. Investors in the United Kingdom WILL NOT have any protection under the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
   Sweden: SEB Merchant Banking, Custody Services, Global Funds, RB6, Rissneleden 110, SE-106 40 Stockholm.
- Spain: Allfunds Bank S.A., c/Estafeta no. 6 (La Moraleja), Complejo Plaza de la Fuente, Edificio 3, 28109, Alcobendas, Madrid, Spain. The CNMV registration number of
- Comgest Growth plc is 1294. Switzerland: BNP Paribas, Paris, Zurich Branch, Selnaustrasse 16, 8002 Zürich.

Further information or reporting may be available from the Investment Manager upon request.

Complaints handling policies are available in English, French, German, Dutch and Italian on our website at www.comgest.com in the regulatory information section. Comgest Growth Plc may decide to terminate at any time the arrangements made for the marketing of its UCITS.

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Morningstar Rating™ is an objective, quantitative measure of a fund's historical risk-adjusted performance relative to other funds in its category. The overall rating is a weighted combination of the three-, five- and ten-year ratings. The top 10% of funds will receive a 5-star rating and the next 22.5% receive a 4-star rating. For more detailed information on ESG integration please consult our website: www.comgest.com/en/our-business/esg



## Glossary

Active Share: The percentage of fund holdings that is different from the reference index holdings. A fund that has no holdings in common with the reference index will have an active share of 100%, and a fund that has exactly the same holdings as the reference index considered will have an active share of 0%.

ADR - American Depositary Receipt: A negotiable security that represents securities of a foreign company and allows that company's shares to trade in the financial markets of the United States.

Annualised: A figure converted into an annual rate. Figures covering a period of more than one year are averaged to present a figure for a 12month period

**Bp(s) - Basis point(s):** One basis point is equal to one hundredth of 1% (i.e. 0.01%).

BV - Book Value: The value of the company assets

minus its liabilities

CAGR - Compound Annual Growth Rate: The rate of return that would be required for an investment to grow from its beginning balance to its ending balance, assuming the profits were reinvested at the end of each year of the investment's lifespan.

CapEx - Capital Expenditure: The money invested by a company to acquire or upgrade fixed, physical, non-consumable assets such as plants, buildings, technology, or property, equipment.

Cash Flow: The net amount of cash and cash equivalents being transferred in and out of a company. Cash received signifies inflows, and cash spent signifies outflows.

CPI - Consumer Price Index: An index that measures the overall change in consumer prices based on a representative basket of goods and services over time. It is the metric often used to measure inflation.

DY - Dividend Yield: A ratio that shows how much a company pays out in dividends each year relative to its share price.

EBITDA - Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation: Used to measure a company's core profitability and is calculated by interest, tax, adding depreciation amortisation expenses to net income.

EBIT - Earnings Before Interest and Taxes: Used to measure a company's core profitability and is calculated by adding interest and tax expenses to net income.

EPS - Earnings Per Share: The profits of a company attributed to each share, calculated by dividing profits after tax by the number of shares. EPS serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

FCF - Free Cash Flow: The cash generated by a company from its normal business operations after subtracting any money spent on capital expenditures.

GDP - Gross Domestic Product: The total market value of all the finished goods and services produced within in a country's border in a specific time period.

GDR - Global Depositary Receipt: A certificate issued by a bank that represents shares in a foreign stock on two or more global markets. A GDR is similar to an American depositary receipt (ADR), except an ADR only lists shares of a foreign country in the markets of the United States.

LTM - Last 12 Months: LTM multiples are backward-looking and are based on historical performance.

Market Cap(italisation): A measure of a company's size, calculated by multiplying the total number of shares in issue by the current share price. Companies are commonly grouped according to size, such as small cap, mid cap, large cap or all cap. There is no consensus on the definition of these groupings and they may vary from portfolio to portfolio depending on the country of investment.

NAV - Net Asset Value: The current market value of the portfolio's assets minus the portfolio's liabilities

NTM - Next 12 Months: NTM multiples are forward-looking and are based on projected performance

Ongoing Charges: A fund's operational costs over a year. Ongoing Charges are calculated as a percentage of the average fund size over the year and include, for example, investment manager's fees, administration fees and custody costs.

Operating Margin: Measures how much profit a company makes on a dollar (or relevant currency) of sales after paying for variable costs of production, such as wages and raw materials, but before paying interest or tax.

Operating Profit: A company's gross income less operating expenses and other business-related expenses, such as wages, cost of goods sold (COGS) and depreciation.

Organic Growth: Growth a company achieves by increasing output and enhancing sales through the business' own operations and internal processes. This does not include profits or growth attributable to mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and foreign exchange but rather an increase in sales and expansion through the company's own resources

Organic Sales: Sales generated from within a company that are a direct result of the company's existing operations and internal processes. Organic sales do not include the impacts of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and foreign exchange

P/B or P/BV - Price-to-Book Value Ratio: Measures the market's valuation of a company relative to its book value. P/B or P/BV is calculated by dividing the company's stock price per share by its book value per share.

P/E - Price-to-Earnings Ratio: A ratio used to value a company's shares. It is calculated by dividing the current market price by the earnings ner share

P/S - Price-to-Sales Ratio: A valuation ratio that compares a company's stock price to its revenues. It is an indicator of the value that financial markets have placed on each dollar of a company's sales or revenues.

- Price/Earnings-To-Growth Ratio: stock's price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio divided by the growth rate of its earnings for a specified time period. The PEG ratio is used to determine a stock's value while also factoring in the company's expected earnings growth.

PMI - Purchasing Managers' Index: An index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.

Reference Index: Index against which a fund's performance is compared.

ROE - Return On Equity: Measures financial performance and is calculated by dividing net income by shareholders' equity. ROE is a gauge of a company's profitability and how efficiently it generates those profits.

ROIC - Return On Invested Capital: Calculation

used to assess a company's efficiency at allocating the capital under its control to profitable investments.

SME - Small- Or Medium-Sized Enterprise: A company, or companies considered as a group, that are neither very small nor very large and which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries.

Volatility: Measures the movements of an asset up and down over time. Volatility is generally considered to be a measure of risk.

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