

# LAZARD CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

12 / 2023 Unit RC EUR/International bonds

Total net assets 1388.63 M€

NAV 652.33 € **Inception date** Oct 28, 2005

Bloomberg Code LAOBAOA

**MORNINGSTAR** 

**ISIN Code** FR0010230490 OVERALL

SFDR Classification: Article 8

Country of registration



### MANAGER(S)



### **INVESTMENT POLICY**

The management objective is to obtain, over the recommended investment period of 3 years, a performance net of fees higher than that of the reference indicator Capitalized Ester + margin (from 1.25% to 2.40% depending on the units) for units expressed in Euro, Fed Funds + margin (1.25% to 2% depending on the units) for units expressed in USD and SARON + 2.40% for the unit expressed in CHF.



#### Recommended investment period of 3 years

### BENCHMARK INDEX

 $\in$ ster capi +1.25% since 04/11/2019; Eonia capi +1.25% from 29/12/2017 to 03/11/2019, previously Eonia capi

### **FEATURES**

calculation

Legal Form	SICAV
Legal Domicile	France
UCITS	Yes

International bonds AMF Classification

Eligibility to PEA (personal equity savings plan)

Currency

EURO Subscribers concerned Retail Inception date 28/10/2005 28/10/2005 Date of share's first NAV

**Lazard Frères Gestion SAS** Management company CACEIS Bank FR S.A Custodian

**CACEIS Fund Admin** Fund administration

Frequency of NAV calculation

Order execution For orders placed before 12:00 pm subscriptions and

redemptions on next NAV D (NAV date) + 2 business day

Subscription terms

D (NAV date) + 2 business day Settlement of redemptions No Share decimalisation Minimum investment 1 share Subscription fees 4% max. 4% max.

Redemption fees 1.72% Management fees (max) Performance fees (1) Nil 1.70% **Current expenses** 

\*\*Risk scale : For the SRI methodology, please refer to Art. 14(c) , Art. 3 and Annexes II and III PRIIPs RTS

(1) Please refer to the Prospectus for more details about the performance fees

(3) Ratios calculated on a weekly basis

### HISTORICAL NET ASSET VALUE (10 YEARS OR SINCE INCEPTION)



Past performance is no guarantee of future performance and is assessed at the end of the recommended investment period.

# HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Cumulative							Annualize	ed	
	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Fund	1.30%	-1.27%	-1.27%	5.52%	28.69%	32.94%	1.81%	5.17%	2.89%
Benchmark	0.42%	4.60%	4.60%	6.64%	7.88%	7.15%	2.17%	1.53%	0.69%
Difference	0.89%	-5.87%	-5.87%	-1.12%	20.81%	25.80%	-0.36%	3.64%	2.20%

# PERFORMANCE BY CALENDAR YEAR

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	
Fund	-1.27%	4.72%	2.06%	12.65%	8.26%	-7.63%	5.99%	5.97%	-2.10%	1.71%	6.64%	
Benchmark	4.60%	1.25%	0.70%	0.73%	0.43%	0.01%	-0.36%	-0.32%	-0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	

TRAILING 1	Y PERFORMA	ANCE
2023 12 31	-1.27%	4.60%
2022 12 31	4.72%	1.25%
2021 12 31	2.06%	0.70%
2020 12 31	12.65%	0.73%
2019 12 31	8.26%	0.43%
2018 12 31	-7.63%	0.01%
2017 12 31	5.99%	-0.36%
2016 12 31	5.97%	-0.32%
2015 12 31	-2.10%	-0.11%
2014 12 31	1.71%	0.10%

### **RISK RATIOS\*\*\***

	1 Year	3 Years	
Volatility			
Fund	8.19%	6.95%	
Benchmark	0.10%	0.25%	
Tracking Error	8.19%	6.96%	
Information ratio	-0.72	-0.05	
Sharpe ratio	-0.56	0.13	



# PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	Yield to worst	Yield to call	Yield to maturity	Spread vs Govies (bps)	Modified Duration	Credit Sensitivity
Gross (Net hedge FX)	5.0%	5.8%	5.7%	217	2.2	2.1
Net ( hedged FX/CDS/Taux)	3.6%	4.3%	4.2%	217	2.8	2.1

Estimates of yields, OAS spreads or sensitivities are based on LFG's best judgment for all securities included in the portfolio as of the date mentioned (cash excluded). LFG does not provide any guarantee.

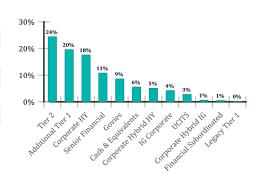
# **AVERAGE RATING**

Issues Rating*	Issuers Rating*
BB+	BBB
	*Average rating

# MAIN HOLDINGS

Holdings	Weight
LEASEPLAN TV 19-29MYS	1.6%
FRANCE TREASURY BILL ZCP 210224	1.4%
BBVA SA TV(COCO) 19-29MRT	1.2%
ACCOR SA TV (EMTN) 19-300CA	1.1%
GRIFOLS 15/8%(REG S)19-15FE25S	1.1%

# **SUBORDINATION BREAKDOWN (%)**

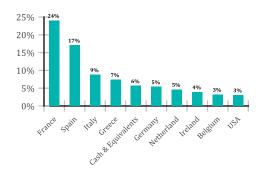


# **CURRENCY BREAKDOWN (%)**

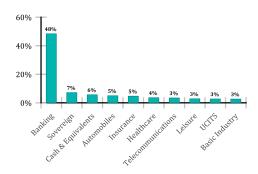
Currencies	Net weight	
EUR	101.8%	
USD	-4.3%	
GBP	0.0%	
Others Currencies	2.5%	

 ${\it *Net exposure of}\atop FX\ hedges.$ 

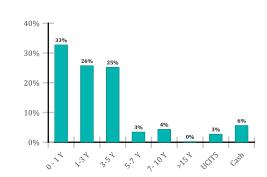
### **GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN % (Top Ten)**



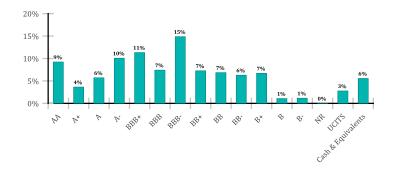
# **SECTOR BREAKDOWN % (Top Ten)**



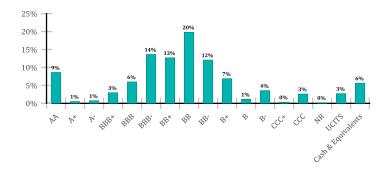
# **MATURITY BREAKDOWN (Maturity Date)**



### **ISSUER RATING BREAKDOWN (%)**



### **ISSUE RATING BREAKDOWN (%)**





### **FUND MANAGERS COMMENT**

December saw the disinflation process continue, allowing investors to factor in several rate cuts by central bankers in 2024. The US, German and UK tenyear yields eased by 45bp, 42bp and 64bp to end the year at 3,88%, 2,02% and 3,54% respectively. In the United States, yields continued to fall under the impetus of the Federal Reserve (Fed) and slowing inflation figures for November. The Fed left its rates unchanged at 5,25%-5,50% but made it clear that rates had reached their peak. Jerome Powell acknowledged the ongoing slowdown in inflation and validated a rate pivot in 2024. In the Eurozone, the ECB left its rates unchanged and was cautious in maintaining its message that they would remain high for an extended period. The central bank acknowledges the fall in inflation, but will not lower its guard for all that. For its part, the Bank of England kept its key interest rates at 5,25% and the publication of the November CPI index surprised on the downside, at 3,9% and 5,1% for its core component year-on-year. This latest bearish surprise, following the one in October, enabled UK yields to outperform the other fixed income markets. In Japan, ten-year yields fell by 6bp to 0,61%, as the Bank of Japan left its rates unchanged at -0,10% and did not shift to a more restrictive stance, as had been expected by most investors.

December was a very positive month for financial credit, with performances ranging from +1,9% for insurance senior debt to +4,6% for eurodenominated AT1s. This positive performance was due both to a downward movement in interest rates (around -40bp in euros and dollars, across all maturities) and to narrower spreads, with senior bank debt tightening by -6bp, IG-rated Tier 2 by -33bp and AT1s by -65bp to -90bp. In the primary market, new issues were very limited, with €6,6bn issued during the month for financials. Nevertheless, the banking syndicates are already actively preparing for January, which is likely to be a very busy month not only due to seasonality, but also because of the attractive yields for issuing new bonds after the rally in rates and spreads mentioned above.

In investment grade corporate credit, credit spreads tightened over the month, by -9bp for senior debt and by -19bp for hybrid debt, in an environment marked by a sharp fall in interest rates fuelled by the Fed's less aggressive stance and a slowdown in the primary market. Credit and interest rate effects were both positive for the asset class, which ended the month with a performance of +2,98%. Unsurprisingly, there was a tightening across all sectors. The best performer over the month was the property sector (Grand City Property, Aroundtown, Balder), which benefited from the momentum on interest rates, which was good for real estate. Conversely, sovereign-related issuers (Syngenta) and non-discretionary consumer goods (Heineken, Pepsi, Coca) underperformed. The primary market was sluggish, with only €3,2bn issued. However, Unibail made a comeback with its Green issue for €750m with a 7year maturity and a yield of 4,23%. Investors largely oversubscribed (>4x), reflecting renewed appetite for the sector.

High-yield corporate credit put in a remarkable performance in December, rising by +2,82% to close the year with an annual performance of +12,08%. Yields continued to fall (-43bp on the German 5-year), supported by expectations of a cut in key rates. Spreads also tightened by -37bp to end the month at 412bp. The primary market was moderately active, with four issuers raising €2,05bn in new issues. Against this backdrop, the lowest-rated issuers outperformed. All sectors recorded positive performances. The property sector (CPI Property, Heimstaden) performed well, supported by expectations of a rate cut sooner rather than later. Telecoms (Altice, Telecom Italia) were buoyed both by Altice, which has received bids for its business in Portugal, and by Telecom Italia, whose network sale is going according to plan. The technology sector (Atos, Ams OSRAM) did well thanks to Atos, which has received a capital increase from its main shareholder Onepoint, and Airbus, which has returned to the fray in the cybersecurity and big data sectors.

The widespread fall in interest rates meant that the month ended with a positive rate effect. The credit effect was also positive. However, credit protection once again weighed on performance. The portfolio ended the month with a modified duration reduced to around 3. The credit hedge was fully withdrawn. Nevertheless, the overall positioning remains defensive with a liquidity compartment (cash, BTF, money market UCI) close to 13%.



### **CONTACTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Website: www.lazardfreresgestion.com

France

Lazard Frères Gestion, S.A.S. 25 rue de Courcelles, 75008 Paris

Telephone: +33 1 44 13 01 79

Belgium and Luxembourg

Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, Belgium Branch

326 Avenue Louise, 1050 Brussels, Belgium Telephone: +32 2 626 15 30/ +32 2 626 15 31

Email: lfm\_belgium@lazard.com

Germany and Austria

Lazard Asset Management (Deutschland) GmbH Neue Mainzer Str. 75, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

Telephone: +49 69 / 50 60 60

Email: fondsinformationen@lazard.com

Italy

Lazard Asset Management (Deutschland) GmbH

Via Dell'Orso 2, 20121 Milan Telephone: + 39-02-8699-8611 Email: fondi@lazard.com Spain and Portugal

Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, Sucursal en España

Paseo de la Castellana 140, Piso 10°, Letra E, 28046 Madrid Telephone: + 34 91 419 77 61

Telephone: + 34 91 419 77 61 Email: contact.es@lazard.com

United Kingdom, Finland, Ireland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden Lazard Asset Management Limited 50 Stratton Street, London W1J 8LL

Telephone: 0800 374 810

Email: contactuk@lazard.com

Switzerland and Liechtenstein Lazard Asset Management Schweiz AG Uraniastr. 12, CH-8001 Zürich

Telephone: +41 43 / 888 64 80

Email: lfm.ch@lazard.com

United Arab Emirates - Dubai International Financial Center

Lazard Gulf Limited

Gate Village 1, Level 2, Office 206 - DIFC, Dubai, PO Box 506644

Telephone: +971 4 372 8250

Email: dubaimarketing@lazard.com

Non-contractual document: This document is provided for the information of unitholders or shareholders in accordance with applicable regulations. It does not constitute investment advice, an invitation or an offer to subscribe to financial instruments. Investors should read the prospectus carefully before subscribing. Please note that not all share classes are authorised for distribution in all jurisdictions. No investment in the portfolio will be accepted until it has been properly registered in the relevant jurisdiction.

France: The prospectus, KIID and financial reports are available free of charge on the Lazard Frères Gestion website and from our local distributors. Performances are calculated after deduction of management fees, but do not include taxes or subscription and redemption fees, which are borne by the subscriber.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein: Lazard Asset Management Schweiz AG, Uraniastrasse 12, CH-8001 Zurich. The representative in Switzerland is ACOLIN Fund Services AG, Leutschenbachstrasse 50, CH-8050 Zurich, the Paying Agent is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17, quai de l'Ile, CH-1204 Geneva. For further information please visit our website, contact the Swiss representative or visit www.fundinfo.com. The paying agent in Liechtenstein is LGT Bank AG, Herrengasse 12, FL-9490 Vaduz. Not all share classes of the respective sub-fund are registered for distribution in Liechtenstein and are aimed exclusively at institutional investors. Subscriptions may only be made on the basis of the current prospectus. The performance shown does not take account of any commissions and costs charged when subscribing to and redeeming shares.

United Kingdom, Finland, Ireland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden: The information is approved, on behalf of Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, by Lazard Asset Management Limited, 50 Stratton Street, London W1J 8LL. Company registered in England and Wales under number 525667. Lazard Asset Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the United Kingdom's Financial Services Authority (FSA).

Germany and Austria: Lazard Asset Management (Deutschland) GmbH, Neue Mainzer Strasse 75, 60311 Frankfurt am Main is authorised and regulated in Germany by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin). The Paying Agent in Germany is Landesbank BadenWürttemberg, Am Hauptbahnhof 2, 70173 Stuttgart; the Paying Agent in Austria is UniCredit Bank Austria AG, Rothschildplatz 1, 1020 Vienna.

Belgium and Luxembourg: This information is provided by the Belgian Branch of Lazard Fund Managers Ireland Limited, Blue Tower Louise, Avenue Louise 326, Brussels, 1050 Belgium. The Paying Agent and the Representative in Belgium for the registration and the receipt of requests for issuance or repurchase of units or for switching sub-funds for French funds is RBC Investor Services Bank S.A: 14, Porte de France, L-4360 Esch-sur-Alzette-Grand Duchéde Luxembourg

Italy: This information is provided by the Italian branch of Lazard Asset Management (Deutschland) GmbH. Lazard Asset Management (Deutschland) GmbH Milano Office, Via Dell'Orso 2 - 20121 Milan is authorised and regulated in Germany by BaFin. Not all the share classes of the relevant sub-fund are registered for marketing in Italy and they are intended exclusively for institutional investors. Subscriptions may only be made on the basis of the current prospectus.

Netherlands: This information is provided by the Dutch branch of Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, which is registered with the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (Autoriteit Financiële Markten).

Spain and Portugal: This information is provided by the Spanish branch of Lazard Fund Managers Ireland Limited, Paseo de la Castellana 140, Piso 100, Letra E, 28046 Madrid and registered with the National Securities Market Commission (Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores or CNMV) under number 18.

Andorra: Only for financial entities authorised in Andorra. This information is provided by the Spanish branch of Lazard Fund Managers Ireland Limited, Paseo de la Castellana 140, Piso 100, Letra E, 28046 Madrid and registered with the National Securities Market Commission (Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores or CNMV) under number 18. This information is approved by Lazard Asset Management Limited (LAML). LAML and the Fund are not regulated or authorised or registered in the official registers of the Andorran regulator (AFA) and, accordingly, Shares in the Fund may not be offered or sold in Andorra through active marketing activities. Any order transmitted by an authorised Andorran financial entity for the purpose of acquiring Units in the Fund and/or any commercial document relating to the Fund shall be communicated in response to an unsolicited contact from the investor.