

## Carmignac European Long Short Equity: Letter from the Fund Manager



Author(s)  
Malte Heining

Published  
July 26, 2023

Lengt  
6

### *Dear Investors,*

Q2 2023 was a challenging quarter for us, as the macro environment remained complex and confusing. As detailed in our last quarterly letter, **the economy is still heavily impacted by the direct and indirect impacts of the Covid period, which brought the global economy out of balance and led to a broad dis-synchronization of the cycle.**

Our fund\*\* generated a performance of -0.93%, net of fees, during the quarter.

As seen in the table below, **while our Core Long book generated a positive performance, driven by our large convictions in Alcon, Prada and Microsoft; our Alpha Shorts suffered from the Beta and Momentum driven market rally.**

### YTD attribution by bucket

Core Longs	+3.61
Trading Longs	-0.05
Relative value/Special sit	-0.03
Alpha Shorts	-3.57
Hedging	-3.12

Data as of 30/06/2023. Source: Carmignac, 30/06/2023

During the second quarter, European Equity markets were broadly flat, and range bound after a strong rally in Q1, while the US equity market continued to recover.

### **Looking at the fundamentals, that divergence between the US and Europe makes sense.**

The US economy is holding up well and the data is coming in better than expected, defying the predictions for a near term recession.

**The strength of the US economy, among others, is still benefiting from the huge amount of stimulus from the trillions of newly printed**

**money, which was provided during Covid.** The monetary policy effort to mop that liquidity up again, via a quantitative tightening and higher interest rates, were so far fully offset by the hugely expansive fiscal policy of the US government, in the form of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the US Infrastructure Act, the Chips Act etc.

The US budget deficit for 2023 lies at 8%, an incredibly high number, outside of crisis & war times, at a time when unemployment is below 4%. On the other hand, the US consumer became much less interest rate sensitive, as over 90% of residential mortgages, which account for 80% of consumer debt, are mostly very long dated and fixed.

**Early cyclical markets, like the housing and the overall real estate industry, with large ripple effect to the broader economy, are holding up fairly** well thanks to:

Commercial construction, which has been propped up by the IRA and re-shoring  
Residential newbuild market is counter-intuitively helped by the higher rates that reduce the amount of second-hand homes supply as people cannot refinance, hence improving the demand for new build houses

While inflation is coming down and the labour market remains fairly tight, real wages have started to rise.

Beyond this, we also see early indicators in the US, like the ISM inventory to new orders ratio potentially troughing, which could be the beginning of a restocking cycle.

If we look to summarize, **the US economy is looking fairly good and although the earnings and multiples might reflect that, there are no imminent signs that the economy will be falling off a cliff.**

Jumping over to Europe, the picture is different for many reasons.

**Going back to Covid, we never had the amount of monetary and fiscal stimulus that the US had. Coming out of Covid, we have nothing like the US fiscal stimulus packages (IRA, Infrastructure, etc) that boosts the economy.** And given we never had the stimulus, the origins of the inflation in Europe were mainly coming from the energy crisis and Covid-related supply chain disruptions, rather than excessive money printing. While we did not have the stimulus benefit, we had a similar amount of monetary tightening in the form of unprecedented interest rate hikes to fight the inflation shock that, especially in markets with mainly floating or short dated mortgages like Sweden or the UK, have a much larger impact on the real estate market than in the US. For example, German house prices fell faster this year than during the financial crisis and the construction industry is facing a huge cliff with new projects collapsing.

The hope from earlier this year of a roaring come-back of China that would boost European exports did not materialize and the Chinese economy continues to be very weak. **The structural issues Europe has, are obviously still very much present, and while the arrival of artificial intelligence (AI) is a historical change which will have huge implications for all companies, the engines of this development are, with some exceptions, once again in the US and will further widen the structural gap between the continents.**

European markets are at their highs after a strong first semester and many companies are still benefiting from the inflationary environment and the slower than anticipated normalization of supply chain issues. **The strong inventory cycle in 2022 is now coming to an end and, while inventory accumulation boosted growth last year, it is likely to be a significant drag in 2023.** European business inventories have increased substantially over the past couple of years, pushing inventory-to-sales ratios across sectors close to 20-year highs. Since the onset of Covid, these companies boosted their P&L thanks to these artificial supply shortages and pricing power. **High-cost inventories are at risk from a demand slowdown as pricing power cannot be sustained, thus impacting margins and bottom-line profitability. More recently, we have started noticing the first cracks.**

Chemicals, an early cyclical industry which, by nature, does not have a backlog and is not benefiting any longer from artificial shortages, provides us with a real snapshot of the current economy. This sector has seen an avalanche of profit warnings this year across end markets (BASF, Clariant, Croda, DSM or Lanxess among others), due to a mix of high inventory levels/de-stocking and weak end demand. Other industries are still more insulated from this development due to their extended backlogs, but the underlying set-up is a similar one, with high inventories across the supply chain and weak end demand. Therefore, **unless there is a big rebound in economic growth, many companies will be hit in the months to come.**

**While equity markets are currently still excited about inflation coming down, the impact for companies will be weak pricing on weak volumes.** Here again, we are starting to see that coming through, in various industries (e.g., players in the US food staples like General Mills or Campbell Soup, where the positive pricing tailwind has started to fade, while volumes are still weak).

In summary, **the macroeconomic outlook is still complex, with a fairly strong, fiscally stimulated and AI boosted US market, a weak Chinese Economy with political tail risks and a European economy that is rolling over. From a pure fundamental investment point of view, it feels like many of the Covid-related dislocations, which distorted company financials and business economics, are starting to normalize again, which will benefit fundamental investment strategies.**

As always, our focus remains on company specifics and bottom-up investment cases and we are very excited about the opportunities ahead of us.

*Wishing you a great Summer!*

*The European Long/Short Equity Team*

Source: Carmignac, Bloomberg, 30/06/2023. \*\* Performance of the F EUR Acc share class ISIN code: LU0992627298.  
Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

Carmignac Portfolio Long-Short European Equities

# A flexible Long/Short approach to European Equities

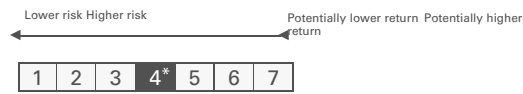
[Discover the fund page](#)



## Carmignac Portfolio Long-Short European Equities F EUR Acc

ISIN: LU0992627298

Recommended  
minimum  
investment horizon



### Main risks of the Fund

**RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE LONG/SHORT STRATEGY:** This risk is linked to long and/or short positions designed to adjust net market exposure. The fund may suffer high losses if its long and short positions undergo simultaneous unfavourable development in opposite directions.

**EQUITY:** The Fund may be affected by stock price variations, the scale of which is dependent on external factors, stock trading volumes or market capitalization.

**INTEREST RATE:** Interest rate risk results in a decline in the net asset value in the event of changes in interest rates.

**CURRENCY:** Currency risk is linked to exposure to a currency other than the Fund's valuation currency, either through direct investment or the use of forward financial instruments.

The Fund presents a risk of loss of capital.

**Marketing communication. Please refer to the KID/KIID, prospectus of the fund before making any final investment decisions. This document is intended for professional clients.**

This material may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without prior authorisation from the Management Company. This material does not constitute a subscription offer, nor does it constitute investment advice. This material is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, accounting, legal or tax advice. This material has been provided to you for informational purposes only and may not be relied upon by you in evaluating the merits of investing in any securities or interests referred to herein or for any other purposes. The information contained in this material may be partial information and may be modified without prior notice. They are expressed as of the date of writing and are derived from proprietary and non-proprietary sources deemed by Carmignac to be reliable, are not necessarily all-inclusive and are not guaranteed as to accuracy. As such, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and no responsibility arising in any other way for errors and omissions (including responsibility to any person by reason of negligence) is accepted by Carmignac, its officers, employees or agents.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Performances are net of fees (excluding possible entrance fees charged by the distributor). The return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations, for the shares which are not currency-hedged.

Reference to certain securities and financial instruments is for illustrative purposes to highlight stocks that are or have been included in the portfolios of funds in the Carmignac range. This is not intended to promote direct investment in those instruments, nor does it constitute investment advice. The Management Company is not subject to prohibition on trading in these instruments prior to issuing any communication. The portfolios of Carmignac funds may change without previous notice. The reference to a ranking or prize, is no guarantee of the future results of the UCIS or the manager.

Morningstar Rating™ : © Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; may not be copied or distributed; and is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

Access to the Funds may be subject to restrictions regarding certain persons or countries. This material is not directed to any person in any jurisdiction where (by reason of that person's nationality, residence or otherwise) the material or availability of this material is prohibited. Persons in respect of whom such prohibitions apply must not access this material. Taxation depends on the situation of the individual. The Funds are not registered for retail distribution in Asia, in Japan, in North America, nor are they registered in South America. Carmignac Funds are registered in Singapore as restricted foreign scheme (for professional clients only). The Funds have not been registered under the US Securities Act of 1933. The Funds may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, for the benefit or on behalf of a «U.S. person», according to the definition of the US Regulation S and FATCA. The risks, fees and ongoing charges are described in the KID (Key Information Document). The KID must be made available to the subscriber prior to subscription. The subscriber must read the KID. Investors may lose some or all their capital, as the capital in the funds are not guaranteed. The Funds present a risk of loss of capital.

The Funds' prospectus, KIDs, NAVs and annual reports are available at [www.carmignac.com](http://www.carmignac.com), or upon request to the Management Carmignac Portfolio refers to the sub-funds of Carmignac Portfolio SICAV, an investment company under Luxembourg law, conforming to the UCITS Directive. The French investment funds (fonds communs de placement or FCP) are common funds in contractual form conforming to the UCITS or AIFM Directive under French law.

**In France, Luxembourg, Sweden:** The risks, fees and ongoing charges are described in the KID (Key Information Document). The KID must be made available to the subscriber prior to subscription. The subscriber must read the KID. Investors may lose some or all their capital, as the capital in the funds are not guaranteed. The Funds present a risk of loss of capital. The Funds' prospectus, KIDs, NAV and annual reports are available at [www.carmignac.com](http://www.carmignac.com), or upon request to the Management.

**In the United Kingdom:** the Funds' respective prospectuses, KIIDs and annual reports are available at [www.carmignac.co.uk](http://www.carmignac.co.uk), or upon request to the Management Company, or for the French Funds, at the offices of the Facilities Agent at BNP PARIBAS SECURITIES SERVICES, operating through its branch in London: 55 Moorgate, London EC2R. This document was prepared by Carmignac Gestion, Carmignac Gestion Luxembourg or Carmignac UK Ltd. FP Carmignac ICVC (the "Company") is an Investment Company with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under registered number 839620 and is authorised by the FCA with effect from 4 April 2019 and launched on 15 May 2019. FundRock Partners Limited is the Authorised Corporate Director (the "ACD") of the Company and is authorised and regulated by the FCA. Registered Office: Hamilton Centre, Rodney Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3BY, UK; Registered in England and Wales with number 4162989. Carmignac Gestion Luxembourg SA has been appointed as the Investment Manager and distributor in respect of the Company. Carmignac UK Ltd (Registered in England and Wales with number 14162894) has been appointed as a sub-Investment Manager of the Company and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority with FRN:984288.

**In Switzerland:** the prospectus, KIDs and annual report are available at [www.carmignac.ch](http://www.carmignac.ch), or through our representative in Switzerland, CACEIS (Switzerland), S.A., Route de Signy 35, CH-1260 Nyon. The paying agent is CACEIS Bank, Montrouge, Nyon Branch / Switzerland, Route de Signy 35, 1260 Nyon.

The Management Company can cease promotion in your country anytime. Investors have access to a summary of their rights in English on the following links: [UK](#) ; [Switzerland](#) ; [France](#) ; [Luxembourg](#) ; [Sweden](#).