QUARTERLY REPORT

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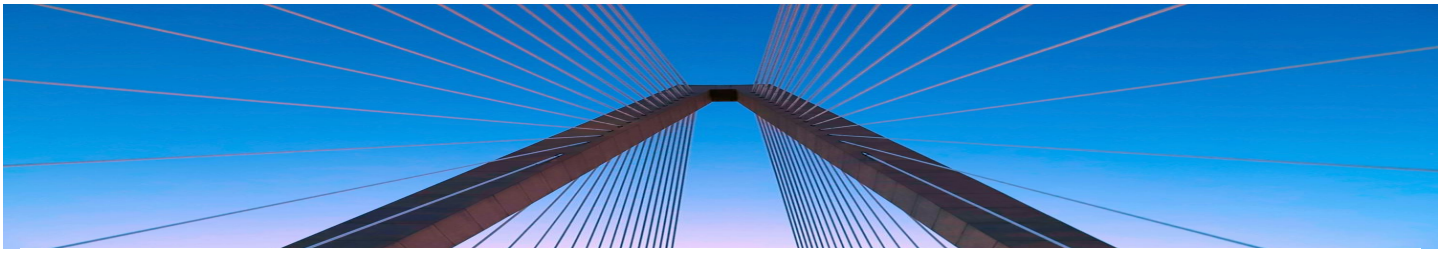

European Long Short Equity: Letter from the Fund Manager

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Our strategy, Carmignac Portfolio Long Short European Equities, had a performance of -1.79% during the third quarter, bringing the performance to -1.65% this year, in our F share class, net of fees.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. The return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations, for the shares which are not currency-hedged. Performances are net of fees (excluding possible entrance fees charged by the distributor). Source: Carmignac, Bloomberg, 30/09/2022. Performance of the F EUR Acc share class ISIN code: LU0992627298.

Q3 was a challenging quarter

While the overall company fundamentals and macro environment continued to deteriorate on both sides of the Atlantic, equity markets remained extremely volatile.

The Nasdaq rallied 23% from its June lows on some flawed hope of a premature FED pivot. Unsurprisingly, corporate results remained fairly resilient, as the economy does not move as quickly as stock prices, only to collapse again as the combination of a hawkish FED and a sticky core inflation destroyed the pivot narrative. Meanwhile, the big bellwether warnings from Fedex, AMD, etc started to impact the hopes for a soft landing. As the US 10 year Treasury yield is the world's discount rate and the USD its reserve currency, the rise of the US 10 year, combined with a rising dollar, put a huge strain on the rest of the world including Europe, as they make borrowing in USD more costly, amplify the energy driven and imported inflationary pressures and depress multiples.

Taking one step back, we want to recap where we stand today and where we go from here**Over the past decade, global equities, bonds, and asset prices in general, had a fantastic run.** Ever declining yields led to significant multiple expansion and asset inflation, while cheap energy, cheap labor through increasing globalization and lower taxes, led to a rise in profit margins.

Being long any asset class, ideally levered, was the right strategy

With inflation being back, this period has abruptly ended and will force investors to look at alternative strategies, where long short equity in specific should move back into the spotlight.

The bill is coming from the excesses in monetary and fiscal policy of the post financial crisis era. All drivers of the rise in asset prices are unravelling. The war in Ukraine, and the resulting energy crisis, has led to a sharp increase in energy costs. The retirement of the baby boomers, tougher immigration policies and a politically driven reversal of globalization have structurally increased labor costs & wage inflation in developed markets.

The resulting inflation from both wages and energy has brought inflation to multi-decade highs, forcing central banks to raise interest rates, which will result in higher interest expenses and eventually higher taxes, as governments need to pay for their increasing interest burden. This is resulting in a compression of both multiples and profit margins.

Besides, interest rates are being raised into a slowing economy where consumers, particularly in Europe, are being squeezed from higher energy prices and higher interest rates, amplified by the strength of the USD vs their local currencies leading to the worst start to the year for global asset prices in decades.

Unfortunately, there is no easy fix for this difficult situation and a quick return to a zero-rate investment environment is very unlikely

Given negative interest rates had no impact on headline inflation, rising rates and a global recession will help reduce the demand for goods and services, but will not solve the energy crisis or the structural tighter labor market. We have witnessed zero correlation between the two metrics on the way down, so it is not necessarily reasonable to assume that rising rates will solve the inflation problem. As Fed Chair Jerome Powell keeps on reminding us, inflation is extremely complex, and many factors are outside of their control.

Some of our core longs have come down a long way and seen significant multiple compression already. Puma, one of our top convictions over the last few years, is down more than 50% this year, while its mid-term fundamentals remain very strong. ASM International is also down over 30% on doubts that mid-term numbers will come down and Salesforce is back to its 2018 level despite few fundamental concerns.

We remain net short, as the numbers for most estimates are still too high for 2023 and multiples are unlikely to expand unless we see core inflation come down convincingly or financial markets spin out of control, forcing the FED to pivot.

We still have a strong idea flow on the short side

We think the combination of the rapidly rising mortgage rates, record high housing prices together with significant housing supply coming onto the market to meet squeezed consumer, will result in a huge collapse of housing transactions with big multiplier effects across the industry.

We also doubt that car dealerships have become structurally more profitable and don't see why margins should not revert to their long-term averages after doubling during the corona driven supply chain shortage.

We also think people underestimate the magnitude and duration of the air pocket that durable consumer goods will hit, post a huge demand pull forward during Covid.

As seen in the table below, **we generated positive alpha in our Alpha Shorts bucket, while our Core Longs suffered from the market backdrop.**

YTD attribution by bucket

Core Longs	-12.43
Trading Longs	-2.77
Relative value/Special sit	-0.15
Alpha Shorts	+13.26
Hedging	+3.32

Source: Carmignac, 30/02/2022

In summary, for all the reasons we laid out, we think the environment for asset prices remains difficult.

That said, a great crisis usually creates great investment opportunities and over a reasonable time horizon some companies will go up significant in value, while others will fail.

But given we will not be able to rely on the huge tailwind to assets prices we enjoyed in the past, stock picking and a more balanced exposure to both rising and falling equity prices seems to be a wise strategy.

Carmignac Portfolio Long-Short European Equities F EUR Acc

ISIN: LU0992627298

Lower risk Higher risk

Recommended minimum investment horizon

1	2	3*	4	5	6	7

Main risk 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.

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