# INVESTOR LETTER SphereInvest | GROUP

### **GLOBAL CREDIT STRATEGIES FUND**

#### **Monthly Performance**

Class F (USD): MTD return: 0.55% Class D (EUR): MTD return: 0.39%

2016 return: 5.28% 2016 return: 4.49%

NAV per Share: 132.62 NAV per Share: 129.69 **MAY 2016** 

Year-to-date		1-ye	ear	З у	ears	Since In	ception	130 ] ——SIGCS Class F
	Return	Return	Sharpe	Return <sup>a</sup>	<sup>⊧</sup> Sharpe	Return *	Sharpe	—— Global HY
SIGCSF Class F (US\$)	5.3%	3.8%	1.13	6.5%	2.46	7.4%	2.90	120
BOFA Global High Yield	7.3%	0.8%	0.05	4.0%	0.77	6.1%	1.29	
BOFA EM High Yield	8.4%	3.6%	0.48	3.7%	0.51	6.1%	0.93	110
BOFA Europe High Yield	3.9%	2.0%	0.32	5.9%	0.87	9.0%	1.44	and the second s
BOFA US High Yield	8.1%	-0.5%	-0.13	3.3%	0.56	5.2%	0.98	100
BOFA US Treasury 5-10yrs	3.9%	5.2%	1.23	2.7%	0.56	1.9%	0.40	
MSCI World	0.7%	-5.7%	-0.39	4.8%	0.37	7.9%	0.62	90 +
MSCI Emerging Markets	1.9%	-18.1%	-0.86	-6.3%	-0.39	-3.8%	-0.25	Jun-13 5ep-13 7ec-13 Jun-14 5ep-14 7ar-15 5ep-15 5ep-15 7ar-15 7ar-16
<ul> <li>Annualized Weekly Returns and Sharpe Ratios; Fund Inception: 30/07/12</li> </ul>								ے بھی ہے تھی ہے تھی Source: SphereInvest Group; Bank of America Merrill Lynch

#### **Portfolio and Market Commentary**

May was another solid month for credit markets, with US, EM and Euro high yield credit returning 0.62%, 0.67% and 0.36% respectively, during the Fund's performance period (April 28th to June 2nd). While the rally since mid-February had benefited from the perceived reduction of various factors, notably, the stabilization of China, the broad rally in commodities, and the Fed's dovish stance, risk assets did not enjoy similar tailwinds during May.

To the contrary, the month saw renewed weakness for many commodities – with the notable exceptions of oil and gold. The Yuan fell to its lowest since January against the dollar, possibly reflecting renewed signs of weakness in China, while an article in the People's Daily (widely assumed to reflect the stance of the country's leadership) signaled a near-term shift away from the aggressive easing, which had supported the economy at the start of 2016.

In the US, various Fed speakers warned investors were mispricing the probability of a near-term hike, while the FOMC minutes helped further muddle the dovish message Chair Yellen had consistently sent since the start of the year, feeding concerns this is a Fed eager to hike, if only markets allowed them, despite their profession to "data-dependency", sending the market-based probability of a June move sharply upward (from 4% before the minutes were published to more than 30% afterwards).

We suspect much of May's market resilience – or, perhaps more accurately, the inability of risk premiums' to correct - was due to benchmarked investors trying to catch up with the previous months' strong performance.

More optimistically, investors' collective wisdom may have for once successfully looked through short term noise: investors' unfazed reaction to the Fed's new hawkishness proved prescient once the weak May job report took the June hike off the table.

With the EU referendum in the UK looming increasingly large, markets have remained similarly placid in the face of neck-and-neck polls. We will only know on June 24<sup>th</sup>, whether they were wrongly complacent or have justly discounted indecisive polls, with insights into polling biases and into voters' past behavior when confronted with the alternative between change and status-quo.

There is a third possibility: Brexit is not a diversifiable risk, explaining the absence of reaction in most markets bar those directly linked, such as the pound. If the short-term risk-off response to Brexit can be expected with some certainty, the medium-term markets impact will depend on the evolution of a protracted process, and on too many unknowns to be adequately managed at this point. While Brexit is an emotive topic and is undesirable from an economic and market perspective in our view, we have therefore not made specific adjustments to the Fund in anticipation of June 23rd.

For investors deprived of any compelling narrative and often wrong-footed since the start of the year, recent developments in core rates appear to offer one lasting theme: the dramatic fall of interest rates across Developed Markets continue to point to economies mired in low inflation, while Central Banks' policies impotent or counterproductive.

We are uncertain how much of the renewed pressure on rates was due to the pull exerted by QE in Europe and Japan, the temporary safety bid ahead of the EU referendum, or a genuine deterioration in expectations. Various economic organizations continue to downgrade their global growth forecasts. On the heels of the IMF in April, the World Bank reduced their forecast to 2.4% in May (from 2.9% projected in January), while the OECD, in their latest Global Economic Outlook, warned of a global economy "stuck in a low-growth trap" and of the "urgent need" for comprehensive policy action to supplement central bank activism.

While still early days, the turnaround in expectations in Brazil as the previous incompetent administration is replaced, exemplifies the potency of a positive policy shock, in our view. Across Developed Markets, it still appears central banks remain the "only game in town", which likely will continue breeding malaise among economic agents, first among which, fixed income investors, being crowded into ever lower-yielding and higher-duration assets.

## Portfolio Composition

	Rating	NAV (%)	Drice	Duration	Vield	Spread
SphereInvest Global Credit Strategies	BB-	100 %	101.3	2.0	5.4 %	402
Largest 5 Positions	BB-	20 %	101.5	1.8	5.4 % 6.0 %	372
-	DD-	20 %	105.0	1.0	0.0 %	572
Regions		27.0/	07.4	4.0	7.0.0/	624
Central & Latin America	BB-	27 %	97.1	4.0	7.9 %	634
Cash and Equivalents	AA	26 %				
Developed Europe	B+	22 %	104.9	2.2	6.8 %	505
Eastern Europe / CIS	BB-	15 %	104.4	1.6	5.6 %	311
Asia-ex-Japan	BB-	6 %	98.2	1.0	11.7 %	· ·
Supranationals	BBB	4 %	102.6	4.3	4.9 %	360
Corporates/Financials						
Corps	BB-	66 %	101.4	2.8	7.2 %	549
Cash and Equivalents	AA	26 %				
Financials	BB	8 %	100.6	2.4	7.9 %	520
Sectors						
Services	B+	17 %	103.5	2.3	7.2 %	503
Media/Telco	B+	14 %	101.4	1.8	7.6 %	546
Commercial Banks	BB+	12 %	101.2	3.0	6.9 %	464
Oil/Gas	BB	10 %	101.7	3.4	4.8 %	406
Automotive	BB-	5 %	97.9	1.6	11.9 %	1,090
Consumer Non Cyclicals	В	4 %	106.4	0.6	6.9 %	427
Soft Commodities	BB	4 %	95.7	6.4	6.4 %	499
Consumer Cyclicals	В	4 %	100.3	4.0	7.8 %	649
Real Estate	В	2 %	103.6	2.1	8.3 %	699
Metals/Mining	BB	1%	84.0	6.0	8.7 %	723
Industrials	BBB	1%	101.6	5.4	5.0 %	352
Ratings						
В	В	34 %	100.5	2.6	8.7 %	715
BB	BB	29 %	101.3	2.4	6.2 %	394
AA	AA	26 %				
BBB	BBB	9 %	103.2	4.9	4.7 %	380
CCC	CCC	2 %	107.1	0.5	7.5 %	506
Currencies						
USD	BB-	71 %	98.8	1.9	4.9 %	385
EUR	B+	20 %	105.4	2.5	6.2 %	479
GBP	B+	9%	104.5	1.8	7.0 %	380
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#### **Monthly Performance since Inception**

Class F (USD, MT7000005617)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2012							0.15%	0.72%	0.78%	2.11%	1.24%	1.72%	6.90%
2013	0.97%	0.11%	0.54%	1.64%	-0.04%	-2.16%	1.11%	-0.06%	1.70%	1.66%	0.14%	0.67%	6.40%
2014	0.84%	1.08%	0.84%	1.10%	1.20%	1.04%	-0.20%	0.91%	-0.51%	0.14%	0.66%	-0.71%	6.56%
2015	-0.22%	1.80%	1.38%	1.66%	0.93%	-0.54%	-0.19%	-1.19%	-1.27%	1.82%	0.73%	-0.99%	<b>3.91%</b>
2016	-0.34%	0.03%	2.86%	2.12%	0.55%								5.28%
Class D	(Euro, M	т7000005	591)										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2012							0.20%	0.66%	0.70%	2.04%	1.20%	1.62%	6.59%
2013	0.87%	0.12%	0.54%	1.54%	-0.06%	-2.21%	1.16%	-0.07%	1.67%	1.66%	0.13%	0.65%	6.11%
2014	0.85%	1.06%	0.77%	1.09%	1.25%	1.01%	-0.21%	0.92%	-0.62%	0.12%	0.59%	-0.79%	6.18%
2015	-0.29%	1.82%	1.33%	1.55%	0.97%	-0.63%	-0.50%	-1.27%	-1.46%	1.77%	0.91%	-1.13%	3.35%
2016	-0.42%	-0.01%	2.57%	1.92%	0.39%								4.49%
Class E	(GBP, MT		,										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2015					0.69%	-0.51%	-0.17%	-1.21%	-1.29%	1.86%	0.68%	-1.02%	-1.01%
2016	-0.38%	-0.08%	2.79%	2.07%	0.48%								4.93%

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance figures are net of all fees.

#### **Fund Terms**

Regulatory	UCITS IV							
Liquidity	Weekly							
Start Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2012							
Management Fee	1.5 % (Retail) 1% (Institutional)							
Performance Fee	5% Incentive Fee							
Minimum Investment	Retail = 25,000 (GBP, EUR, USD, CAD, CHF)							
	Institutional = 200,000 (GBP, EUR, USD, CAD, CHF)							
Domicile	Malta							
Administrator	Equinoxe Alternative Investment Services (Ireland) Ltd.							
Custodian	RBC International							
Auditor	Deloitte & Touche							
Legal Counsel	Ganado & Associates							

**Disclaimer:** 

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