## **Quarterly Report for**

# **Europe Equity Growth**

30 April 2024





**Growing Your Investments in a Changing World** 

#### **TRUST DIRECTORY**

#### Manager

AmFunds Management Berhad 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bangunan AmBank Group 55 Jalan Raja Chulan 50200 Kuala Lumpur

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Deloitte Tax Services Sdn Bhd

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### MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear Unitholders,

We are pleased to present you the Manager's report and the unaudited quarterly accounts of Europe Equity Growth ("Fund") for the financial period from 1 February 2024 to 30 April 2024.

#### Salient Information of the Fund

Name	Europe Equity Growth ("Fund")
Category/ Type	Wholesale (Feeder Fund) / Growth
Name of Target Fund	Allianz Europe Equity Growth
Objective	The Fund seeks to provide long term* capital growth by investing in the Target Fund, which invests primarily in European equity markets.
	Note: * Long term means the investment horizon should at least be ten (10) years. Any material change to the investment objective of the Fund would require Unit Holders' approval.
Duration	The Fund was established on 10 July 2014 and shall exist for as long as it appears to the Manager and the Trustee that it is in the interests of the unitholders for it to continue. In some circumstances, the unitholders can resolve at a meeting to terminate the Fund.
Performance Benchmark	S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return ("S&P") (Available at www.aminvest.com)
	Note: The risk profile of the Fund is not the same as the risk profile of the performance benchmark.
	The S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return (the "Index") is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC ("SPDJI"), and has been licensed for use by AmFunds Management Berhad. S&P® is a registered trademark of S&P Global ("S&P"); Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC ("Dow Jones"); Europe Equity Growth are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by SPDJI, Dow Jones, S&P, any of their respective affiliates (collectively, "S&P Dow Jones Indices"). S&P Dow Jones Indices makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the Europe Equity Growth or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in Europe Equity Growth particularly or the ability of the S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return to track general market performance. S&P Dow Jones Indices' only relationship to AmFunds Management Berhad with respect to the S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return is the licensing of the Index and certain trademarks, service marks and/or trade names of S&P Dow Jones Indices and/or its licensors. The S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return is determined, composed and calculated by S&P Dow Jones Indices without regard to AmFunds Management Berhad or the Europe Equity Growth. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation to take the needs of AmFunds Management Berhad or the owners of Europe Equity Growth into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return. S&P Dow Jones Indices are not responsible for and have not participated in the determination of the prices, and amount of Europe Equity Growth or the timing of the issuance or sale of Europe Equity Growth or in the

determination or calculation of the equation by which Europe Equity Growth is to be converted into cash, surrendered or redeemed, as the case may be. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of Europe Equity Growth. There is no assurance that investment products based on the S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not an investment advisor. Inclusion of a security within an index is not a recommendation by S&P Dow Jones Indices to buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advice.						
Subject to availability of	f income, distrik	oution is incident	tal and will be r	einvested.		
For the financial period under review, the size of the Fund stood at 26,144,565 units.						
Size of holding As at 30 April 2024 As at 31 January 2024						
	No of units held	Number of unitholders	No of units held	Number of unitholders		
5,000 and below	-	-	-	-		
5,001-10,000	-	-	-	-		
10,001-50,000	26,374	1	26,374	1		
50,001-500,000	1,084,578	4	943,255	3		
500,001 and above	25,033,613	3	28,431,428	3		
	be converted into cash Jones Indices have no marketing or trading investment products b Return will accurately returns. S&P Dow Jon security within an inde buy, sell, or hold such s Subject to availability or Subject to availability or For the financial perior units. Size of holding 5,000 and below 5,001-10,000 10,001-50,000	be converted into cash, surrendered of Jones Indices have no obligation or It marketing or trading of Europe Eq investment products based on the S Return will accurately track index p returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC security within an index is not a reco buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it Subject to availability of income, district Subject to availability of income, district Size of holding As at 30 / No of units held 5,000 and below - 5,001-10,000 - 10,001-50,000 26,374 50,001-500,000 1,084,578	be converted into cash, surrendered or redeemed, as Jones Indices have no obligation or liability in conner marketing or trading of Europe Equity Growth. T investment products based on the S&P Europe Lan Return will accurately track index performance or returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not an invest security within an index is not a recommendation by buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to b Subject to availability of income, distribution is incident For the financial period under review, the size of th units. Size of holding As at 30 April 2024 No of Number of units held unitholders 5,000 and below - 5,001-10,000 - 10,001-50,000 26,374 1 50,001-500,000 1,084,578 4	be converted into cash, surrendered or redeemed, as the case may Jones Indices have no obligation or liability in connection with the marketing or trading of Europe Equity Growth. There is no a investment products based on the S&P Europe LargeMidCap Gro Return will accurately track index performance or provide positi returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not an investment advisor. security within an index is not a recommendation by S&P Dow Jo buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advisor.Subject to availability of income, distribution is incidental and will be rSize of holdingAs at 30 April 2024As at 31 JaNo of units heldNumber of units heldS,000 and below5,001-10,00010,001-50,00026,37410,001-50,0001,084,5784943,255		

## Fund Performance Data

inv Mor dej equ <b>Tot</b> Note value	eign collective vestment scheme ney market posits and cash uivalents al	As at 30.04.2024 % 95.80 4.20 100.00	% 97.67 2.33	<b>2023</b> % 96.97 3.03	s at 31 July 2022 % 97.73 2.27	<b>2021</b> % 93.89
inv Mor dej equ <b>Tot</b> Note value	vestment scheme ney market posits and cash uivalents	95.80 4.20	% 97.67 2.33	<b>2023</b> % 96.97 3.03	<b>2022</b> % 97.73	<b>2021</b> % 93.89
inv Mor dej equ <b>Tot</b> Note value	vestment scheme ney market posits and cash uivalents	4.20	2.33	3.03		
Mor der equ Tot Note value	ney market posits and cash uivalents				2 27	0.44
Note value					2.27	0.4.4
Note value	al	100.00	100.00		_1_1	6.11
value			100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	<ul> <li>Note: The abovementioned percentages are calculated based on total net asservalue.</li> <li>Performance details of the Fund for the financial periods ended 30 April 2024, 37 January 2024 and three financial years ended 31 July are as follows:</li> </ul>					
		FPE	FPE	FYE	FYE	FYE
		30.04.2024	31.01.2024	2023	2022	2021
<u>(Ri</u>	asset value V'000)	68,078	75,591	78,716	91,444	93,227
	ts in circulation	26,145	29,401	32,833	43,935	35,378
Net uni	asset value per	2.6039	2.5710	2.3974	2.0813	2.6351

	FPE	FPE	FYE	FYE	FYE
	30.04.2024	31.01.2024	2023	2022	2021
Highest net asset					
value per unit (RM)	2.7669	2.5710	2.4565	2.8184	2.6564
Lowest net asset					
value per unit (RM)	2.5624	2.1097	1.6889	1.8478	1.8670
Benchmark					
performance (%)	3.49	14.84	17.40	-15.38	31.67
Total return (%) <sup>(1)</sup>	1.28	22.01	15.19	-16.73	38.46
- Capital growth (%)	1.28	22.01	15.19	-20.90	38.46
- Income distribution					
(%)	-	-	-	4.17	-
Gross distribution					
(sen per unit)	-	-	-	11.00	-
Net distribution					
(sen per unit)	-	-	-	11.00	-
Total expense ratio					
<b>(%)</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	0.10	0.11	0.42	0.42	0.47
Portfolio turnover					
ratio (times) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.12	0.04	0.18	0.40	0.89

Note:

(1) Total return is the actual return of the Fund for the respective financial periods/years computed based on the net asset value per unit and net of all fees.

(2) Total expense ratio ("TER") is calculated based on the total fees and expenses incurred by the Fund divided by the average fund size calculated on a daily basis.

(3) Portfolio turnover ratio ("PTR") is calculated based on the average of the total acquisitions and total disposals of investment securities of the Fund divided by the average fund size calculated on a daily basis.

#### Average Total Return (as at 30 April 2024)

	Europe Equity Growth <sup>(a)</sup> %	S&P <sup>(b)</sup> %
One year	14.48	13.15
Three years	4.86	6.58
Five years	9.56	6.58
Since launch (10 July 2014)	10.87	8.80

#### Annual Total Return

Financial Years Ended (31 July)	Europe Equity Growth <sup>(a)</sup> %	S&P <sup>(b)</sup> %
2023	15.19	17.40
2022	-16.73	-15.38
2021	38.46	31.67
2020	13.75	9.47
2019	-0.74	2.14

(a) Source: Novagni Analytics and Advisory Sdn. Bhd.

(b) S&P Europe LargeMidCap Growth Net Total Return ("S&P"). (Available at www.aminvest.com)

The Fund performance is calculated based on the net asset value per unit of the Fund. Average total return of the Fund and its benchmark for a period is computed based on the absolute return for that period annualised over one year.

	Note: Past perform and that unit prices							
Fund Performance	For the financial period under review, the Fund registered a return of 1.28% which is entirely capital growth in nature.					1.28% which is		
	Thus, the Fund's return of 1.28% has underperformed the benchmark's return 3.49% by 2.21%. As compared with the financial period ended 31 January 2024, the net asset va							
	("NAV") per unit of the Fund increased by 1.28% from RM2.5710 to RM2.6039, while units in circulation decreased by 11.08% from 29,401,057 units to 26,144,565 units.							
	The following line chart shows comparison between the annual perfective Equity Growth and its benchmark, S&P, for the financial year July.							
	5	0.0						
	4	0.0		X				
	× 3	0.0						
	li in	0.0			•	*		
	al Re	0.0						
	Lo Io I	0.0						
	-2	0.0			×			
	····×··· Fund	-0.74	2020 13.75	2021 38.46	2022 -16.73	2023 15.19		
	Benchm		9.47	31.67	-15.38	17.40		
			al Years End					
	Note: Past perform and that unit prices							
Performance of the Target Fund	Fund Performance ("the Target Fund"		e Target Fu	nd – Allian	iz Europe E	Equity Growth		
T unu	Allianz Europe Equi April 2024, while its returned 4.56% <sup>1</sup> .							
	Sticky US inflation a wary also of higher stocks outperforming some of the perfor sharper Growth orie	valuations, and g Growth stocks mance differer	d led to a b s for the sec ntials more	rief market cond consec recently, w	selloff in A cutive month vith the stra	pril, with Value n. This explains ategy having a		
	Among our most po such as Trelleborg							

	upside ahead, as well as Atlas Copco (compressor), after reporting strongly. Conversely, our Medtech names continue to show weakness, although the most prominent detractor was logistics company DSV. The stock has been under pressure given concerns about logistics volumes and yields in the deteriorating macro environment.						
	Catalysts for the strategy this year include Euro area inflation has lowered. Stronge valuations, and indeed many of our Manag point for growth. This is qualified by post- names still affected, order book visibility, new innovations, investments and efficient	r earnings cou gement teams Pandemic inver an upswing in	Ild similarly sup have indicated ntory normalisir semiconducto	pport Growth H2 as a pivot ng for the last			
	During the 3-month review period, we closed our position in a UK wealth advisor. This decision was driven by concerns over future profit growth and increased regulatory control over client fees by the UK regulator. Additionally, we exited a small healthcare position due to the company's limited growth prospects. The proceeds from these sales have been invested into two new positions: a branded hotel franchise, and the leading German real estate classifieds company, both of which are asset-light businesses with strong cash generation and high return profiles.						
	<sup>1</sup> IDS GmbH as of 30 April 2024 Source: Allianz Global Investors unless otherwise stated. Performance is calculated in the respective fund currency (SGD) with net income and dividends reinvested.						
Strategies	Strategies and Policies employed by Target Fund						
and Policies Employed	The Target Fund remains true to proce		rkot on dramme	nto and will			
	continue to focus on long term structural growth investment cases. The investment team seeks to identify high quality companies that benefit from their unique competitive advantages and barriers to entry to sustainably grow returns and cash flows over the longer term. At present this leads to overweight allocations to the Industrials and Information Technology sectors, while the most significant underweight is now in Consumer Staples.						
	Source: Allianz Global Investors unless otherwise stated.						
	Strategies and Policies of the Fund						
	For the financial period under review, the Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing a minimum of 85% of the Fund's net asset value ("NAV") in the Allianz Europe Equity Growth (the "Target Fund") at all times. This implies that the Fund has a passive strategy.						
Portfolio Structure	The table below is the asset allocation January 2024.	of the Fund a	s at 30 April 2	2024 and 31			
		As at 30.04.2024 %	As at 31.01.2024 %	Changes %			
	Foreign collective investment scheme	95.80	97.67	-1.87			
	Money market deposits and cash	4.00	0.00	4 07			
	equivalents Total	4.20 <b>100.00</b>	2.33 <b>100.00</b>	1.87			
		100.00	100.00				
	For the financial period under review, the foreign collective investment scheme and market deposits and cash equivalents.						
	5						

Cross Trade	There were no cross trades undertaken during the financial period under review.
Distribution/ Unit Splits	There is no income distribution and unit split declared for the financial period under review.
State of Affairs	There has been neither significant change to the state of affairs of the Fund nor any circumstances that materially affect any interests of the unitholders during the financial period under review.
Rebates and Soft Commission	During the period, the management company did not receive soft commissions by virtue of transactions conducted for the Fund.
Market Review	European equities delivered robust gains, boosted by growing hopes that borrowing costs would be reduced in 2024.
	The Eurozone economy grew by a stronger-than-forecast 0.3% in the first quarter, marking the quickest pace of growth since the third quarter of 2022 <sup>2</sup> . The Hamburg Commercial Bank Eurozone composite purchasing managers' index (HCOB Eurozone Composite PMI) jumped to a 11-month high of 51.4 in April, with services activity rising to 52.9, the highest level since May 2023, although manufacturing activity contracted at the fastest pace in four months <sup>3</sup> . Headline inflation held steady at 2.4% in April, but core inflation slowed to 2.7% <sup>4</sup> . The ECB (European Central Bank) left rates on hold but said that the case for a rate cut in June was strengthening, although this would likely be followed by a pause.
	Germany's economy grew 0.2% in the first quarter, compared with a 0.5% contraction in the final quarter of 2023 <sup>5</sup> . The HCOB Germany composite PMI jumped to 50.5 in April, rising above the 50 level that separates expansion from contraction for the first time since June 2023 <sup>6</sup> . The Ifo Institute of German business confidence also improved, rising to its highest level in almost a year in April. However, inflation surprised on the upside, with the harmonised rate ticking up to 2.4% in April <sup>7</sup> .
	UK equities rallied, helped by the FTSE 100 Index's sizeable exposure to energy stocks, the strongest sector in the three-month period. The UK economy looks to have returned to growth in the first quarter. Additionally, the S&P Global UK composite PMI rallied to an 11-month high of 54.0 in April, driven by an acceleration in the UK's dominant services sector <sup>8</sup> . While UK inflation slowed to 3.2% in March, it slightly topped forecasts <sup>9</sup> . Markets are now pricing in the first rate cut from the Bank of England in September or November of this year.
	<ul> <li><sup>2</sup> Eurostat, April 2024</li> <li><sup>3</sup> S&amp;P Global, April 2024</li> <li><sup>4</sup> Eurostat, April 2024</li> <li><sup>5</sup> Detstatis, April 2024</li> <li><sup>6</sup> S&amp;P Global, April 2024</li> <li><sup>7</sup> Detstatis, April 2024</li> <li><sup>8</sup> S&amp;P Global, April 2024</li> <li><sup>9</sup> Office for National Statistics, April 2024</li> </ul>
	Source: Allianz Global Investors unless otherwise stated.
Market Outlook	The ongoing emphasis on inflation and interest rates seems to be more reflective of a market unsure how to position than any real risk mitigation, as a minor rate reduction later this year is relatively insignificant compared to the substantial increases seen previously. The Q1 earnings season should therefore be valuable to provide more direction. So far, we have indeed seen some strong stock price reactions to the results and expect this to continue.

Pricing power is the first line of earnings defence for a lot of our companies, but further rises have become more difficult to push through given fatigue and the softer macro environment. The current creativity contest to drive growth is seeing many of our Management teams react to market pressures with innovation, efficiency programs, and vertical integration to stay ahead of the pack. We feel our companies are in a relatively stronger position here.

Our portfolio has substantial exposure to AI (often the "enablers" like ASML Holding), datacentres, sustainability themes, and luxury, holding generally more resilient companies in a slowdown (those with pricing power, sticky revenues, contracts, and providers of essential products and services as examples). Our companies' underlying profit growth looks steady.

Given strong performance of late, we are monitoring what is priced in. While overall valuations have risen, we believe generally they are reasonable, assuming H2 is as strong as indicated. This has been a clear theme from our companies as they report: emphasis on the second half of the year as a pivot point for growth. Geopolitical risks of course remain on the table. Aside from this, we share the optimism of many of our Management teams for the year ahead.

Source: Allianz Global Investors unless otherwise stated.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia AmFunds Management Berhad

18 June 2024

## Europe Equity Growth

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 APRIL 2024

	30.04.2024 (unaudited) RM	31.07.2023 (audited) RM
ASSETS		
Investment Amount due from Manager Cash at bank <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	65,219,546 96,546 2,893,799 68,209,891	76,333,639 30,101 2,393,730 78,757,470
LIABILITIES		
Amount due to Manager Amount due to Trustee Sundry payables and accruals <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	114,023 3,426 14,040 131,489	24,691 4,013 13,081 41,785
NET ASSET VALUE ("NAV") OF THE FUND	68,078,402	78,715,685
EQUITY		
Unit holders' capital Retained earnings <b>NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNIT HOLDERS</b>	32,366,184 35,712,218 68,078,402	48,854,126 29,861,559 78,715,685
UNITS IN CIRCULATION	26,144,565	32,833,442
NAV PER UNIT (RM)	2.6039	2.3974

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (Unaudited) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2024 TO 30 APRIL 2024

	01.02.2024 to 30.04.2024 RM	01.02.2023 to 30.04.2023 RM
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Interest income Net gains from investment: - Financial assets at fair value through profit or	11,679	9,131
loss ("FVTPL")	1,316,322	6,297,416
Other net realised losses on foreign currency exchange	(200,019)	(34,283)
	1,127,982	6,272,264
EXPENDITURE		
Manager's fee	(60,605)	(64,391)
Trustee's fee	(10,462)	(11,295)
Audit fee	(1,844)	(1,829)
Tax agent's fee	(935)	(926)
Other expenses	(171)	(2,332)
	(74,017)	(80,773)
Net income before taxation Taxation	1,053,965	6,191,491 -
Net income after taxation, representing total comprehensive income for the		
financial period	1,053,965	6,191,491
Total comprehensive income comprises the following:		
Realised income/(loss)	2,246,235	(64,932)
Unrealised (loss)/gain	(1,192,270)	6,286,423
	1,053,965	6,221,491

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (Unaudited) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2024 TO 30 APRIL 2024

	Unit holders' capital RM	Retained earnings RM	Total equity RM
At 1 February 2024	40,933,091	34,658,253	75,591,344
Total comprehensive income for			
the financial period	-	1,053,965	1,053,965
Creation of units	8,432,974	-	8,432,974
Cancellation of units	(16,999,881)	-	(16,999,881)
Balance at 30 April 2024	32,366,184	35,712,218	68,078,402
At 1 February 2023 Total comprehensive income for	54,217,363	19,379,997	73,597,360
the financial period	-	6,191,491	6,191,491
Creation of units	4,396,114	-	4,396,114
Cancellation of units	(3,535,713)	-	(3,535,713)
Balance at 30 April 2023	55,077,764	25,571,488	80,649,252

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2024 TO 30 APRIL 2024

	01.02.2024 to 30.04.2024 RM	01.02.2023 to 30.04.2023 RM
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of investment Purchases of investment Interest received Manager's fee paid Trustee's fee paid Tax agent's fee paid Payments for other expenses Net cash generated from/(used in) operating and investing activities	13,445,497 (3,290,139) 11,679 (61,169) (10,765) - (171) 10,094,932	2,337,378 (2,472,834) 9,132 (63,157) (11,256) (3,800) (9,222) (213,759)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from creation of units Payments for cancellation of units Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities	8,420,975 (17,334,915) (8,913,940)	4,392,075 (3,477,011) 915,064
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	1,180,992 <u>1,712,807</u> 2,893,799	701,305 2,126,834 2,828,139
Cash and cash equivalents comprise: Cash at bank	2,893,799	2,828,139

#### DIRECTORY

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For enquiries about this or any of the other Funds offered by AmFunds Management Berhad Please call 2032 2888 between 8.45 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. (Monday to Thursday), Friday (8.45 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.)

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