

## Axiom Equity\*

### Investment objective

Over a 5-year horizon, Axiom Equity seeks to outperform the Stoxx Europe 600 banks index. The fund is permanently exposed to equities, with at least 75% of total assets invested in the European Union financial sector.

The Management Company has full discretion over the composition of the portfolio of the fund and may take exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in the Benchmark, even though the Benchmark constituents may be representative of the fund's portfolio.

\* We have decided to change the fund name so that it is more in line with its investment policy and strategy. Axiom Equity becomes Axiom European Banks Equity, change which will be effective during the month of December.

The SRRI represents the annual historical volatility of the Fund over a 5-year period. Historical data such as that used to calculate the synthetic indicator cannot be considered as a reliable indication of the Fund's future risk profile. The risk category associated with the Fund is not guaranteed and may change over time. The lowest risk category does not mean "risk free". Your initial investment is not guaranteed.

## KEY DATA AND RISK ANALYSIS

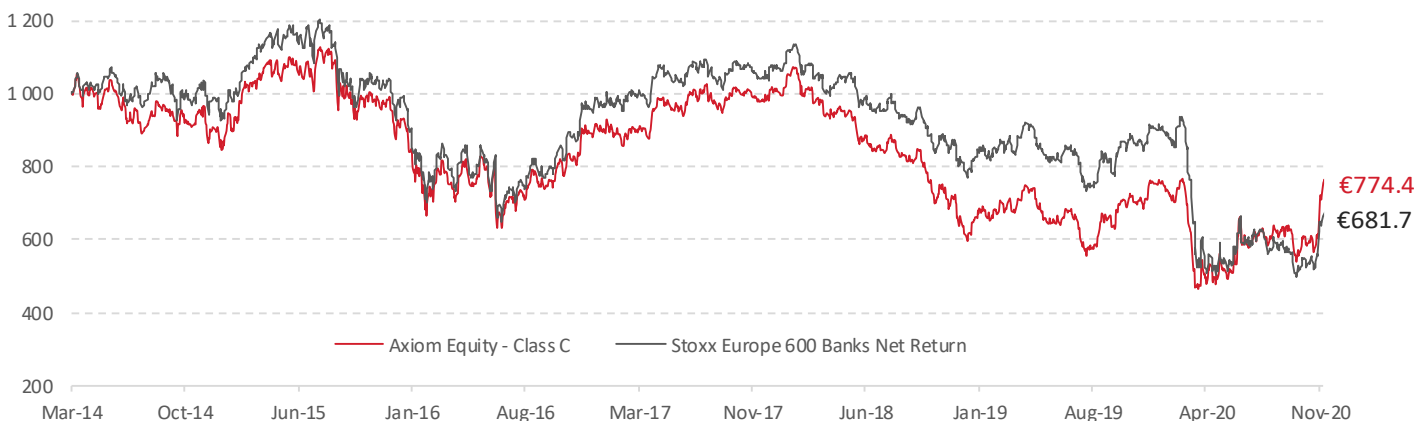
Funds AuM:	€20m	1 year Beta:	0.90
Investment ratio:	95%	1 year volatility:	41.69%
Correlation to the SX7R (since inception):	0.96	1 year Sharpe ratio:	0.24

## NAV VALUES AND MONTHLY RETURNS AS AT 11/30/20

BC (USD)	C (EUR)	M (CHF)	R (EUR)
LU1876459568	LU1876459212	LU1876459485	LU1876459303
-	774.41	-	781.19
-	34.48%	-	34.43%

## PERFORMANCE EVOLUTION – PART C

Performance since inception (base 1000) <sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Past performance does not guarantee future results.

### Cumulative performance

1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years <sup>2</sup>	5 years <sup>2</sup>	Since launch <sup>2</sup>
34.48%	22.06%	3.13%	9.55%	-7.96%	-4.65%	-3.75%

## FUND INFORMATION – UNIT C

ISIN after merger of the fund into a SICAV LuX:	LU1876459212
Currency:	EUR – CHF – USD
Countries:	CH – FR – LU
Fund type and Profit allocation:	SICAV Lux/ Accumulation
Fund inception date:	03/25/2014
Minimum initial subscription:	1 share
Subscription / repurchases conditions:	Before 11h / Settlement J+3
Management fees:	2%
Performance fees: <sup>2</sup>	20% above the benchmark (Stoxx Europe 600 Banks Net Return)

<sup>2</sup>All details of the expenses incurred by the fund are available in the Prospectus. <sup>2</sup>Annualized performance since class inception



## MARKET COMMENTARY



**Antonio Roman**  
Portfolio Manager



**David Benamou**  
Portfolio Manager

### Market commentary

Eurozone banks have had several +20% rallies on big macro events over the last decade. On the back of supportive vaccine data and fading political uncertainty in the US, November witnessed a new +30% "reopening rally", on par with the "whatever it takes" rally of 2012 and the reflation trade of 2016/2017. That said, valuations remain supportive from every angle: the relative P/E and P/B ratios, as well as the sector market share in the broader economy, are still at all-time lows.

On the regulatory front, we saw a widening rift between banks and their supervisors over dividends. The amount of supervisory focus on the topic seems out of proportion to what is actually at stake. For the major listed banks, the total amount of 2019 distributions that were cancelled, including share buy-backs, is a mere 35bps of CET1. For 2020 payouts, the consensus forecast in the absence of ban amounts to 28bps only. In the context of an average 14.5%+ CET1 ratio, the ban seems to be actually doing more damage than good. A decision about dividend restrictions is expected by the ECB soon after December 10. We believe a case-by-case approach would be the most convenient and logical way to address the issue.

Provisions remain a hot topic too, as both the ECB and the EBA signaled the lack of consistency between provisioning approaches. In a recent intervention, Andrea Enria indicated that a group of unidentified banks did not properly reassess loan loss expectations considering the pandemic. At this stage it is impossible to say whether any major listed bank belongs to that group, but the intervention highlights the importance to conduct a "look-through" analysis of asset quality. With regards to the overall level of provisioning in the sector, we believe the consensus remains prudent and we are not surprised that regulators are emphasizing the pessimistic scenario. However, any comparison with the US remains unfair and unhelpful coming from the head of the EBA, as crisis default rates are structurally much lower in the EU.

It was also a very active month in terms of corporate action, with BBVA selling its US subsidiary, Credit Agricole making an offer on Credito Valtelinese, RSA being acquired by Intact, and Unicredit CEO having to step down following disagreements with the board over the M&A strategy. The acquisition of Monte seems increasingly likely as the Italian State is readying a series of recapitalisation measures and guarantees to shore-up the struggling lender. The breakdown of merger talks between Sabadell and BBVA over the valuation of its UK subsidiary TSB was disappointing, but negotiations could resume if Sabadell was to find a suitable buyer for TSB. Lastly, a series of investor days highlighted the potential for further cost-cutting in the sector. AIB announced it would reduce its headcount by 15%, while ABN indicated it was targeting 700M€ of cost savings by 2024 (8% of its market cap).

All eyes are now on the ECB, which should make major announcements over TLTRO, tiering and dividends in the coming days.

In November Axiom Equity returned 34.48% vs. 30.16% for the SX7R, bringing the year-to-date performance to +3.13%, for the fund versus -24.33% for the index.

## Risks

Significant risk(s) for the Fund not taken into account in the SRRI indicator include the following :

**Risk related to the use of financial futures instruments (IFT):** As the Fund, may invest in derivatives, the net asset value may fall more significantly than the markets and financial instruments underlying these products. The occurrence of this risk may lead to a reduction in the net asset value of the Fund

**Equity risk :** Due to its investment objective, this Fund is exposed to equity risk. Therefore, its value may decrease when the equity market declines, especially when prices of financial stocks decrease.

**Liquidity risk:** Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase or sell. This can reduce the Fund's returns because the Fund may be unable to transact at advantageous times or prices. This can be the result of shocks of unprecedented intensity and severity such as but not limited to pandemics and natural disasters.

For more information on risks, please refer to the prospectus of the Funds

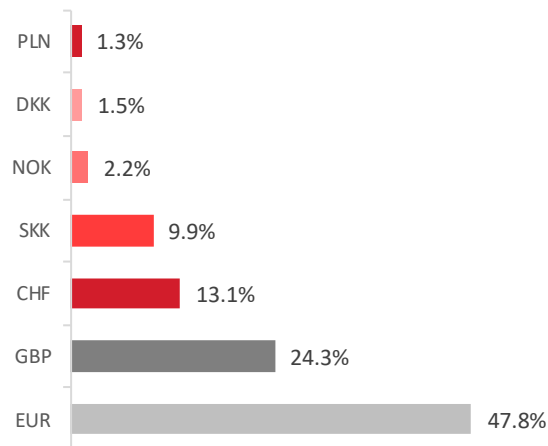
## PORTFOLIO SPLIT (in % of assets)

### TOP 10 ISSUERS

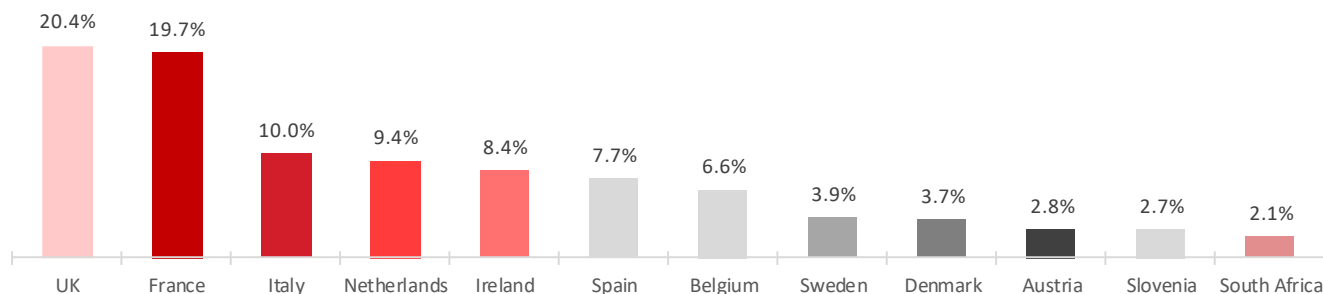
SOCIETE GENERALE	5.92%	FR
ABN AMRO BANK	5.51%	NL
CREDIT AGRICOLE	5.27%	FR
AIB GROUP	4.93%	IE
NATWEST	4.56%	UK
BANCO DE SABADELL	4.21%	ES
HSBC	4.20%	UK
UNIPOL GRUPPO	4.02%	IT
SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN	3.90%	SE
JUST GROUP	3.87%	UK

### BY CURRENCY

Net exposure



### BY COUNTRY <sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Exposure at the end of the month

## MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH TEAM



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