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## **INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT**

*of Fund Performance  
for the period ended  
June 30, 2023*

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**EQUITY FUNDS**  
FÉRIQUE European Equity Fund

This Interim Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim or annual financial statements of the Fund. You can get a copy of the Interim Financial Statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling our Advisory Services at 514-788-6485 (toll-free 1-800-291-0337), by writing to us at Gestion FÉRIQUE, Place du Canada, 1010 de La Gauchetière Street West, Suite 1400, Montréal, Québec H3B 2N2, or by visiting our website at [ferique.com](http://ferique.com) or SEDAR at [sedar.com](http://sedar.com). Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and quarterly portfolio disclosure.

There may be management fees and expenses associated with an investment in a mutual fund. Management expense ratios vary from one year to another. Please read the Prospectus before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed or covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or another government deposit insurer. Their values fluctuate frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

### **A Note on Forward-looking Statements**

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Funds, their future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund actions. The words "may", "could", "should", "would", "suspect", "outlook", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both about the Funds and general economic factors, so it is possible that predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of important factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement made in relation to the Funds. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in Canada, the United States and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological changes, changes in laws and regulations, judicial or regulatory judgments, legal proceedings and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

As at June 30, 2023

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Results of Operations

The FÉRIQUE European Equity Fund posted a net return of 13.3% for the period ended June 30, 2023. Its benchmark, the MSCI Europe Index, posted a 11.5% return for the same period. Contrary to benchmark returns, which include no investment fees, Fund returns are expressed net of management and operating expenses payable by the Fund.

On a relative basis, the Fund outperformed its industry median<sup>1</sup>, which posted 9.4%, net of fees for the period.

#### Lazard

With volatility and uncertainty pervading markets since 2020, the macroeconomic environment stabilized somewhat during the period, while interest rates returned to more normal levels. Against this backdrop, investors were focused on company fundamentals and valuation, which suited the Fund's investment philosophy since it tends to perform well in such an environment.

Stock selection was the main driver of performance during the period. In particular, selection in Financials and Consumer Staples bolstered returns, while selection in Communication Services and Real Estate detracted.

At the individual stock level, UniCredit was the portfolio's top performer. The Italian banking group announced increased share buybacks and above-forecast profits. Their margins are improved higher interest rates. The portfolio sub-manager believes the market is still underestimating the bank's capital generation capacity.

Ryanair Holdings continued to climb, as travel demand remained robust. Near-term travel trends are favourable and the company's recent Boeing aircraft order at a discounted price should drive growth going forwards.

Semiconductor manufacturer Infineon Technologies also contributed to relative returns. The company benefitted from an improved margin profile and from growing interest in artificial intelligence applications globally. However, in light of some uncertainty, the portfolio sub-manager trimmed the position as the share price appreciated significantly.

Conversely, the portfolio's overweight position in Universal Music Group (UMG) detracted from performance. In spite of better-than-expected quarterly results, the company announced strong physical revenues driven by CD and DVD sales, which investors may have perceived as being lower quality. The portfolio sub-manager continues to like this market-leading music label with a strong portfolio of artists earning them royalties and a defensive business model.

German residential real estate firm Vonovia detracted from returns, have struggled during the period. The company's share price was very volatile and fluctuated with market sentiment. In March, instability in credit markets amidst the banking turmoil raised concerns over Vonovia's ability to access financing. The portfolio sub-manager still believes in the company's fundamentals.

The largest adjustment to the portfolio during the period was the allocation to Information Technology moving from an underweight to an overweight following when Amadeus IT Group and ASM International were added to the portfolio. Amadeus IT Group is a Spanish technology company providing ticketing and departure control software to travel operators. The portfolio sub-manager thinks that passenger traffic will continue to recover post-pandemic. A position in ASM International was also introduced based on the semiconductor company's potential to gain market share thanks to its engagements with leading-edge logic and foundry manufacturers.

Elsewhere, a position was added in Kerry Group, in the Consumer Staples sector. The company was attractively valued and should see higher volume growth due to healthy eating trends.

The allocation to the Financials was trimmed, as positions in Barclays, Santander and Allfunds Group were sold so far this year. While the portfolio sub-manager maintains a constructive outlook on select high-quality banks, it maintains an underweight to insurance companies and the rest of the sector.

The allocation to Consumer Discretionary was also reduced as the position in luxury-goods multinational Kering was trimmed.

#### Walter Scott & Partners

From a sector viewpoint, the portfolio's overweight to outperforming Information Technology and shrewd stock selection within the sector contributed the most to relative return. Positions in Consumer Discretionary, including Hermès, Brembo and Ferrari, also substantially bolstered performance. Holdings in Consumer Staples and Materials outperformed and contributed to relative returns. The lack of holdings in Energy sector, the weakest performing sector of the benchmark, also helped. During the period, positions in Health Care were the only significant detractors from relative performance.

From a regional perspective, the portfolio's U.K. holdings contributed the most to relative return. Fevertree Drinks and Compass Group were particularly strong. Swiss, French, Dutch and Spanish stocks also significantly boosted relative returns.

There has been no material change to the portfolio's positioning and overall asset mix during the period. Yet, positions in Temenos and Bunzl were sold off, while positions in Wolters Kluwer, AutoStore Holdings and Diploma were added.

The portfolio sub-manager follows bottom-up strategy focused on the long term. It adds stocks based on their individual merits and outlook in order to build a portfolio that balances growth, profitability, balance sheet resilience, sustainability and valuation, while carefully considering the geographic, industry and thematic exposures and risk.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are an intrinsic part of the stock selection process and all companies held in the portfolio must meet rigorous ESG standards. Some of them are directly involved in improving ESG outcomes. AutoStore Holdings produces warehouse storage and retrieval systems to rationalize space and power utilization using green energy. Their products help replace more energy-intensive retrieval and pick up systems in warehouses to help decarbonize and reduce energy intensity of logistics and supply chains.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Median return of similar funds according to Fundata, as at June 30, 2023.

As at June 30, 2023

## Recent Developments

### Lazard

Easing macroeconomic turmoil created a favourable environment for equities in the first half of 2023. Specifically, improved energy supplies have de-risked European equities, helping catalyze the region's strong stock market performance during the period. The more stable energy supply also helped businesses and consumers, and its impacts reverberated through the economy by improving consumer sentiment from depressed levels.

While the economy has been doing relatively well, divergences are emerging across different areas. The services sector is expanding while manufacturing is nearing a three-year low. Supply chain disruptions easing and shipping logjams clearing resulted in excess inventory eating into the increased revenues generated from earlier price increases.

The portfolio sub-manager remains cautious when determining if stocks will continue to climb. Equity and bond markets are emitting conflicting signals to that end. On one hand, the bond market has been anticipating interest rate cuts from the European Central Bank (ECB) by the end of 2023, which would imply a serious and rapid deterioration in economic conditions. The portfolio sub-manager believes that the ECB will very unlikely go from steadily hiking rates to cutting them by the end of the year, with annual inflation at 6.1%, still running well above the central bank's 2% target. Simultaneously, equity markets have been buoyant with cyclical stocks outperforming and not pricing in any possible slowdown of the economy. The portfolio sub-manager expects reality to lie somewhere between these two distinctly different scenarios.

The past six months were challenging on markets. The banking crisis that started in the United States spilled over to Europe and caused the collapse of leading Swiss bank, Credit Suisse, which was acquired by rival, UBS.

Elsewhere, growing excitement over artificial intelligence unleashed a fresh wave of optimism across markets. The portfolio sub-manager believes that several European companies are well positioned to benefit from this new technology.

Complacency is creeping up in equity markets. The portfolio sub-manager still expects the European economy to face a bumpy landing with a sharp slowdown as the aggressive monetary tightening of the past year begins to take full effect. However, European equities remain modestly valued, especially relative to their U.S. peers.

By the end of the period, the portfolio was most overweight to the Industrials sector, where the portfolio sub-manager finds investment opportunities in aerospace and defence companies.

Conversely, Consumer Staples is the portfolio's largest underweight in spite of the positions added during the period.

ESG considerations have influenced the portfolio's positioning in the Industrials sector, where a position in Volution Group was introduced. Volution Group is a ventilation product manufacturer with a growing focus on heat pumps. In Lazard's view, the business is well positioned to benefit from structural growth trends regarding energy efficiency and the greater need for ventilation solutions. Low-carbon products now make up 60% of the market today, up from 40%. The company owns leading brands in key growth markets, generates impressive return, and is boosting its margins through bolt-on acquisitions.

### Walter Scott & Partners

Equity markets have faced a series of challenges over the course of the period despite faring better than anticipated as the economy proved more resilient than expected. While slowing down, inflation was still elevated and forced central banks across developed markets, such as the ECB, to further tighten their monetary policy. Economic data continues to point to a global slowdown of the economy, although U.S. consumers are showing considerable resilience in the face of the macroeconomic headwinds. In Europe, energy prices fell thanks in part to substantial fiscal support programs, and consumption held up better than expected. Germany recently downgraded its GDP figure for the first quarter of 2023, making it the second consecutive quarter with negative growth. China's reopening was beneficial to companies held in the portfolio, although the strength of the country's economic recovery is now in doubt.

Equity markets have now priced in a mild global economic slowdown and investors are turning to leading European businesses known for their operational resilience. Markets are still expected to remain volatile in this environment.

While keeping an eye for shifts in the macroeconomic landscape, the portfolio sub-manager will continue to focus its attention on company fundamentals and focus on innovative, financially stable and well-managed companies that are at the forefront of trends that will drive their earnings over the years to come. The portfolio sub-manager follows a long-term investment strategy and holds companies for long periods of time so that returns reflect their underlying earnings power despite occasional bouts of earnings and share price volatility.

Mr. Jude Martineau's term as Chair and member of the Independent Review Committee (IRC) ended on March 31, 2023. Ms. Louise Sanscartier was Interim Chair of the Committee from April 1 to June 9, 2023, and was appointed Chair of the IRC Committee on June 9, 2023. Mr. Yves Frenette was appointed as an IRC member for a three-year term beginning April 1, 2023.

Ms. Fabienne Lacoste stepped down as President and Chief Executive Officer of FÉRIQUE Fund Management on July 3, 2023, and was replaced by Mr. Louis Lizotte.

## Related Party Transactions

The Manager of the Fund is Gestion FÉRIQUE, a not-for-profit organization. Gestion FÉRIQUE receives management fees to cover its expenses with respect to the day-to-day business and operations of the Fund, as reported under the Management Fees section. These expenses include the portfolio manager's fees, the fees relating to the marketing and distribution of the Fund, as well as the administration fees of the Manager.

Services d'investissement FÉRIQUE (SIF) is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Gestion FÉRIQUE registered as a group savings plan brokerage and financial planning firm, and acts as distributor of units of the Fund. A percentage of the management fees paid by the Fund to Gestion FÉRIQUE is used to cover the expenses of SIF with respect to its day-to-day activities.

As at June 30, 2023

Gestion FÉRIQUE is responsible for the operating expenses of the Fund, excluding the expenses of the Independent Review Committee and the filing fees, in return for an administration fee, as reported under the Management Fees section.

Gestion FÉRIQUE has set up an Independent Review Committee for the Fund in accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-107 Independent Review Committee for Investment

Funds to review conflicts of interest related to the management of the Fund.

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2023, portfolio sub-managers Lazard and Walter Scott & Partners did not enter into any Related Party Transactions as it pertains to the management of the FÉRIQUE European Equity Fund.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help the reader understand the Fund's financial performance for the accounting periods shown.

	Six-month period ended	Years ended				
	<b>June 30 2023 (6 months)</b>	Dec. 31 2022 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2021 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2020 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2019 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2018 (12 months)
<b>Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)(5)</sup></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Net assets, beginning of accounting period <sup>(4)</sup>	<b>11.75</b>	14.10	13.42	12.81	11.03	13.41
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>						
Total revenues	<b>0.21</b>	0.29	0.35	0.22	0.50	0.31
Total expenses	<b>(0.09)</b>	(0.16)	(0.20)	(0.19)	(0.18)	(0.19)
Realized gains (losses)	<b>0.03</b>	(0.56)	1.55	0.46	(0.06)	0.40
Unrealized gains (losses)	<b>1.42</b>	(1.62)	(0.07)	0.56	1.84	(2.40)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.57</b>	(2.05)	1.63	1.05	2.10	(1.88)
<b>Distributions</b>						
From dividends	–	0.11	0.16	0.08	0.33	0.13
From capital gains	–	–	0.79	0.28	–	0.41
<b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>	–	0.11	0.95	0.36	0.33	0.54
<b>Net assets, end of accounting period<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>13.31</b>	11.75	14.10	13.42	12.81	11.03

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's Annual Audited Financial Statements and Interim Unaudited Financial Statements. The net assets per unit presented in the financial statements could differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes. The differences are explained in the notes to the financial statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase or decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the accounting period. This table is not intended to show a reconciliation between net assets per unit at the beginning and at the end of the accounting period.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.

<sup>(4)</sup> The net assets are calculated in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

<sup>(5)</sup> In this document, the word "units" indicates Series A units.

	Six-month period ended	Years ended				
	<b>June 30 2023 (6 months)</b>	Dec. 31 2022 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2021 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2020 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2019 (12 months)	Dec. 31 2018 (12 months)
<b>Ratios and Supplemental Data</b>						
Net asset value (in thousands of \$) <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>239,645</b>	213,339	225,953	287,309	256,733	205,718
Number of units outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>17,980,929</b>	18,141,188	16,061,240	21,393,001	20,004,193	18,663,032
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>1.27</b>	1.25	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.25
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions by the Manager (%)	<b>1.27</b>	1.25	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.25
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	<b>13.59</b>	34.65	51.56	134.48	65.75	65.79
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	<b>0.07</b>	0.10	0.12	0.24	0.17	0.22
Net asset value per unit (\$)	<b>13.33</b>	11.76	14.07	13.43	12.83	11.02

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at June 30, 2023 and as at December 31 for the comparative accounting periods.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated accounting period (excluding commissions, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes on dividend income) and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the accounting period.

<sup>(3)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once during the accounting period. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in the accounting period, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund during the accounting period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains during the accounting period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

<sup>(4)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the accounting period.

As at June 30, 2023

## Management Fees

Fees payable by the Fund include management fees and operating charges. Operating charges are made up of administration fees and Fund expenses. Management and administration fees are calculated and credited daily and paid monthly.

Management fees include, among others, the portfolio manager's and/or sub-manager's fees, the fees relating to the marketing and distribution of the Fund and the Manager's administration fees.

Administration fees include, among others, registrar custodian fees and fiduciary fees, expenses relating to accounting and valuation of the Fund, auditors' and legal advisors' fees and reporting fees to unitholders. Fund expenses are made up of regulatory filing fees and expenses of the Independent Review Committee.

For the period, annualized management fees charged to the Fund before government taxes amounted to 1.10% and are detailed as follows:

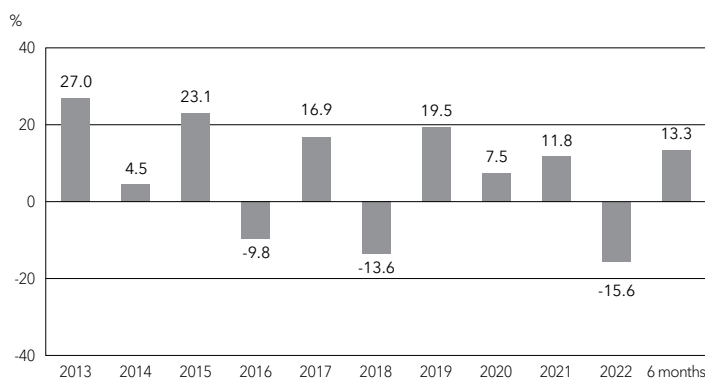
- Management fees: 0.98%
- Administration fees: 0.12%

## Past Performance

The performance information assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The information does not take into account purchase, redemption, investment or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily indicative of how it will perform in the future.

## Annual Returns

The bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year, with the exception of the last bar, which indicates the Fund's total return for the interim six-month period ended June 30, 2023. The bar chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by December 31 of each financial year or on the last day of the six-month period.



## Portfolio Overview

The Top 25 Holdings in the Portfolio	% of net asset value
Novo Nordisk, Class B	3.3
ASML Holding NV	3.0
Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy	2.7
Compass Group PLC	2.5
Roche Holding AG NPV	2.4
Novartis AG	2.1
Air Liquide SA	2.0
AstraZeneca PLC	2.0
BP PLC	2.0
UniCredit SpA	1.8
Amadeus IT Holding SA	1.7
SAP SE	1.7
Hermès International	1.6
Cash, Money Market and Other Net Assets	1.6
RELX PLC	1.6
HSBC Holdings PLC	1.6
Unilever PLC	1.6
ASM International NV	1.5
Universal Music Group NV	1.4
Infineon Technologies AG	1.4
Thales SA	1.3
MTU Aero Engines Holding AG	1.2
Ferrari NV	1.1
Prudential Corp. PLC	1.1
AXA SA	1.1
	<b>45.3</b>

Weighting by Country	% of net asset value
United Kingdom	22.6
France	22.0
Switzerland	12.9
Germany	11.9
Netherlands	7.1
Denmark	5.7
Italy	5.6
Spain	2.6
Ireland	2.6
Portugal	1.7
Cash, Money Market and Other Net Assets	1.6
Finland	1.3
Sweden	1.1
Austria	0.6
Norway	0.4
Poland	0.3

**Net Asset Value** **\$239,644,894**

The allocation of the portfolio may vary due to the transactions carried out by the Fund. A quarterly update is available.

*As at June 30, 2023*

## Other Material Information

Neither MSCI nor any other party involved in or related to compiling, computing or creating the MSCI data makes any express or implied warranties or representations with respect to such data (or the results to be obtained by the use thereof), and all such parties hereby expressly disclaim all warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability or fitness for particular purpose with respect to any such data. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall MSCI, any of its affiliates or any third party involved in or related to compiling, computing or creating the data have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages. No further distribution or dissemination of the MSCI data is permitted without MSCI's express written consent.



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Additional information about the Funds is available in the Funds' Prospectus, Annual Information Form, Fund Facts and Financial Statements.

You may obtain a copy of these documents, free of charge and on demand:

- by contacting the Manager, Gestion FÉRIQUE, at 514-840-9206 (toll-free at 1-888-259-7969);
- by contacting the Principal Distributor, Services d'investissement FÉRIQUE at 514-788-6485 (toll-free at 1-800-291-0337) or [client@ferique.com](mailto:client@ferique.com);
- by visiting [ferique.com](http://ferique.com) or [sedar.com](http://sedar.com).