

# **FUND OVERVIEW**

| Fund Manager(s)        | Paola Binns, Rachid    |
|------------------------|------------------------|
|                        | Semaoune               |
| Fund Size              | €143.81m               |
| Fund Type              | ICVC                   |
| Domicile               | Ireland                |
| ISA                    | Eligible               |
| Duration               | 4.7 years              |
| Benchmark Duration     | 4.6 years              |
| Benchmark Index        | ICE BofA Euro          |
|                        | Corporate & Pfandbrief |
| Investment Association | IA EUR Corporate       |
| Sector                 | Bond                   |
| Currency               | EUR                    |
| Initial Charge         | 0.0%                   |
| Fund Management Fee    | M Acc: 0.40%           |
| (FMF):                 | M Inc: 0.40%           |
|                        | Z Acc: 0.32%           |
|                        | Z Inc: 0.32%           |

#### Share Class M EUR (Acc)

SFDR Classification

| Unit Launch Date   | 29.07.21 |
|--------------------|----------|
| Minimum Investment | €100,000 |
| SEDOL              | BMCR444  |
| Mid Price          | €0.92    |
| Distribution Yield | 2.46%    |
|                    |          |

Article 9

#### Share Class M EUR (Inc)

| Unit Launch Date   | 29.07.21 |
|--------------------|----------|
| Minimum Investment | €100,000 |
| SEDOL              | BMCR4B1  |
| Mid Price          | €0.89    |
| Distribution Yield | 2.46%    |
|                    |          |

#### Share Class Z EUR (Acc)

| Unit Launch Date   | 29.07.21   |
|--------------------|------------|
| Minimum Investment | €3,000,000 |
| SEDOL              | BMCR466    |
| Mid Price          | €0.92      |
| Distribution Yield | 2.54%      |

#### Share Class Z EUR (Inc)

| Unit Launch Date   | 29.07.21   |
|--------------------|------------|
| Minimum Investment | €3,000,000 |
| SEDOL              | BMCR499    |
| Mid Price          | €0.89      |
| Distribution Yield | 2.54%      |

# ROYAL LONDON **EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE CREDIT FUND**

31.03.24

## Overview

**Performance Chart** 

The Fund's investment objective is to outperform the ICE BofAML Euro Corporate & Pfandbrief Total Return EUR Index (the "Benchmark") by 0.50% per annum over rolling three year periods (gross of fees) by investing in bonds that are deemed to make a positive contribution to society. Investments in the Fund will adhere to the Investment Manager's Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy, as detailed in the "responsible investment" section of the Prospectus. Investors should note that the Benchmark is being used by the Fund for performance comparison purposes only and the Fund does not intend to track the Benchmark. For further information on the Fund's index, please refer to the Prospectus.

| Year-on-year performance |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                          | 31.03.23 to<br>31.03.24 | 31.03.22 to<br>31.03.23 | 31.03.21 to<br>31.03.22 | 31.03.20 to<br>31.03.21 | 31.03.19 to<br>31.03.20 |
| Share Class M EUR (Acc)  | 7.9%                    | -8.2%                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| Share Class M EUR (Inc)  | 7.9%                    | -8.2%                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| Share Class Z EUR (Acc)  | 8.0%                    | -8.2%                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| Share Class Z EUR (Inc)  | 8.0%                    | -8.7%                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |

| Cumulative Performance (as at 31.03.24) |          |          |        |         |         |
|---|----------|----------|--------|---------|---------|
|   | 3 Months | 6 Months | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years |
| Share Class M EUR (Acc)                 | 1.1%     | 7.7%     | 7.9%   | -       | -       |
| Share Class M EUR (Inc)                 | 1.1%     | 7.7%     | 7.9%   | -       | -       |
| Share Class Z EUR (Acc)                 | 1.1%     | 7.8%     | 8.0%   | -       | -       |
| Share Class Z EUR (Inc)                 | 1.1%     | 7.8%     | 8.0%   | -       | -       |
| IA Sector Average                       | 0.7%     | 5.6%     | 6.8%   | -5.2%   | -0.7%   |
| ICE BofA Euro Corporate & Pfandbrief    | 0.3%     | 5.8%     | 6.6%   | -7.2%   | -2.7%   |
| Quartile Ranking                        | 1        | 1        | 1      | -       | -       |

| 10%    |                           |               |                               |           |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 0%     |                           |               |                               |           |
| -10%   | California Mary Mary Mary |               |                               | www.      |
| Jul 21 | Apr 22                    | Jan 23        | Oct 23 Powered by data from F | Apr 24    |
| Fund   | IA Sector Average         | ICE BofA Euro |                               | E landino |

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them is not guaranteed and may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Pfandbrief

Source: RLAM and FE fundinfo as at 31.03.24. Fund performance is shown on a mid to mid price basis, net of fees and gross of taxes, with gross income reinvested unless otherwise stated. Benchmark performance is shown gross of fees and taxes.

| Distribution History (Net) |            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
|                            | 29/02/2024 | 31/08/2023 |
| Share Class M EUR (Inc)    | 0.8317c    | 0.6365c    |
| Share Class Z EUR (Inc)    | 0.8651c    | 0.67020    |

Table above shows figures as at payment date.



**Rachid Semaoune** Lead Manager Fund Manager tenure: 29.07.21

CITYWIRE



**Paola Binns** Deputy Manager Fund Manager tenure: 01.08.22

The distribution yield reflects the amounts that may be expected to be distributed over the next 12 months. The underlying yield reflects the annualised income net of expenses of the Fund as a percentage (calculated in accordance with the relevant accounting standards). Both these yields are calculated as a percentage of the midprice of the Fund as at the date shown and are month end snap shots of the portfolio on that day and do not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on distributions. Reported yields reflect RLAM's current perception of market conventions around timing of bond cash flows.

Unrated bonds are not rated by a credit rating agency. RLAM ascribes internal ratings for these bonds which will vary for each asset.

| Sector Breakdown             |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
|                              | Fund  |
| Banks and financial services | 35.1% |
| Consumer goods               | 3.9%  |
| Consumer services            | 7.2%  |
| General industrials          | 8.4%  |
| Insurance                    | 13.9% |
| Real estate                  | 5.8%  |
| Structured                   | 1.3%  |
| Telecommunications           | 6.2%  |
| Utilities                    | 18.2% |

Sector breakdown is based on internal classifications, reflecting what is in our view the primary characteristics of each bond.

| Credit Breakdown |       |       |  |
|------------------|-------|-------|--|
|                  | Fund  | Index |  |
| AAA              | 0.2%  | 6.0%  |  |
| AA               | 4.9%  | 7.5%  |  |
| A                | 36.0% | 37.7% |  |
| BBB              | 54.6% | 48.0% |  |
| BB and below     | 1.4%  | 0.6%  |  |
| Unrated          | 2.8%  | 0.2%  |  |

| Currency Breakdown |        |       |
|--------------------|--------|-------|
|                    | Fund   | Index |
| EUR                | 100.0% | 99.8% |

| Total  | 11.9% |
|--|-------|
| BNP PARIBAS SA 1.625% 02/07/2031                     | 1.0%  |
| BANQUE FEDERATIVE DU CREDIT MUTUEL 4.125% 14/06/2033 | 1.1%  |
| NATWEST GROUP PLC 5.763% 28/02/2034                  | 1.1%  |
| ALLIANZ SE 2.121% 08/07/2050                         | 1.1%  |
| APTIV PLC 1.6% 15/09/2028                            | 1.2%  |
| COOPERATIEVE RABOBANK UA 3.875% 30/11/2032           | 1.2%  |
| BANCO SANTANDER SA 5.75% 23/08/2033                  | 1.2%  |
| GEWOBAG WOHNUNGSBAU AG BERLIN 0.125% 24/06/2027      | 1.2%  |
| HANNOVER RUECK SE 1.375% 30/06/2042                  | 1.3%  |
| HSBC HOLDINGS PLC 6.364% 16/11/2032                  | 1.5%  |
|  | Fund  |

#### **ESG Terms and Definitions**

**ESG Integration:** The systematic and explicit inclusion of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into investment analysis and investment decisions.

Promotes Environmental or Social Factors: An ESG Fund promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices.

**Sustainable Fund Objective:** A product that has sustainable investment or a reduction in carbon emissions as its objective.

**Exclusions:** Explicitly prohibits investing in a particular company, sector, business activity, country or region.

#### ESG Metrics Explanation

Carbon Footprint: Exposure to high emitters in the portfolio, expressed in tCO2e/\$M invested. Financed emissions (explained above) are divided by the portfolio value, the same approach for listed companies and private issuers is applied in this metric.

**Financed Emissions:** The emissions from activities in the real economy that are financed through lending and investment portfolios, expressed in tCO2e. Emissions are attributed to a portfolio based on the portion of the company's value the portfolio holds, and using different accounting values for public and private corporates. We provide financed emissions for scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Weighted Average Carbon Intensity: Portfolio's exposure to carbon-intensive companies, expressed in tCO2e / \$M revenue. Scope 1 and scope 2 GHG emissions are divided by companies revenues, then multiplied based on portfolio weights (the current value of the investment relative to the current portfolio value). The WACI is calculated as a weighted average sum of the holdings with carbon intensity coverage.

## **ESG Characteristics Rationale**

The Fund focuses on the sustainability of the products and services of the companies it invests in, as well as their standards of environmental, social, governance ("ESG") management, alongside financial analysis. The investment approach is fundamentally based on positive screening; identifying companies that are making a positive contribution towards a cleaner, healthier, safer and more inclusive society, through assessing both what a company does and how it does it, and through active engagement to encourage continual improvement. The fund will not invest in companies that undertake business activities deemed to be detrimental to society and that breach our Do No Significant Harm principle. Further details of the Funds Sustainable Investment process can be found in the ethical and sustainable investment policy at www.rlam.com

#### **ESG Characteristics**

|  | Yes      | No |
|--|----------|----|
| ESG Integration                                  | <b>✓</b> |    |
| Promotes Environmental or Social Characteristics | <b>✓</b> |    |
| Sustainable Fund Objective                       | <b>✓</b> |    |
| Additional Exclusions*                           | ~        |    |

<sup>\*</sup>RLAM has a controversial weapons exclusion across all investments

## **Our Fund Restrictions**

| <b>2</b>   | Adult Entertainment   | ~ |
|------------|-----------------------|---|
| Y          | Alcohol               | ~ |
| *          | Animal Welfare        | ~ |
| •          | Armaments             | ~ |
| <b>3</b>   | Controversial Weapons | ~ |
| <u>₽</u> 3 | Fossil Fuels          | ~ |
| ٠.         | Gambling              | ~ |

| •         | High Environmental Impact | ~ |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| 22        | Human Rights Issues       | ~ |
| <b>\$</b> | Nuclear Power             | ~ |
| *         | Nuclear Weapons           | ~ |
|           | Tobacco                   | ~ |

**Details of avoidance and/or exclusion criteria:** https://www.rlam.com/globalassets/media/literature/policies/rlam-ethical-and-sustainable-investment-policy.pdf

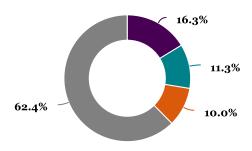
#### ESG Metrics\*

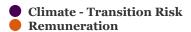
|  | Portfolio | Benchmark | Difference |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Carbon Footprint                           | 24.5      | 74.8      | -67.2%     |
| Carbon Footprint Coverage                  | 63.0%     | 77.1%     |            |
| Financed Emissions                         | 3,787.35  | -         | -          |
| Financed Emissions Coverage                | 62.99%    | -         | -          |
| Weighted Average Carbon Intensity          | 80.9      | 108.3     | -25.3%     |
| Weighted Average Carbon Intensity Coverage | 98.6%     | 97.6%     |            |

<sup>\*</sup>data as at 31/03/2024

# Fund Stewardship Activity\*

## **Engagement Topics**





Social & Financial InclusionOthers

<sup>\*</sup>Data as at 31st December 2023 for the calendar year 2023. Data includes activity led by the Investment Manager and Responsible Investment teams.

# **CONTACT DETAILS**

#### Private Investors

For enquiries and dealing: Tel: 03456 04 04 04\*

#### Intermediaries

For enquiries: Tel: 0203 272 5950\* Email: BDSupport@rlam.co.uk

#### netitutional Investors

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#### **Head Office**

Royal London Asset Management Limited 80 Fenchurch Street London, EC3M 4BY Tel: 020 7506 6500\* Telephone calls may be recorded. For further information please see the privacy policy at http://www.rlam.com.

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Please note that the impact of Futures is not considered as part of the overall fund Duration calculation; Fund level Duration is based on long only physical assets (incl cash).

Source: RLAM, FE fundinfo and HSBC as at 31.03.24, unless otherwise stated. Yield definitions are shown above.

#### Our ref: FS RLAM PD 0124

Breakdowns exclude cash and futures. Although Royal London Asset Management Ltd's information providers, including without limitation, MSCI ESG Research LLC and its affiliates (the "ESG Parties"), obtain information (the "Information") from sources they consider reliable, none of the ESG Parties warrants or guarantees the originality, accuracy and/or completeness, of any data herein and expressly disclaim all express or implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

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## **Key Concepts to Understand**

**Bonds:** Securities that represent an obligation to repay a debt, with interest. Investment grade bonds are high quality bonds that are viewed as being highly likely to make all scheduled payments of interest and principal. Low quality bonds carry higher risk but also typically pay higher rates of interest.

**Derivative:** A financial instrument whose price is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying asset.

**Efficient Portfolio Management:** An investment technique that allows the use of derivatives for at least one of the following purposes: to increase the value of the Fund; to protect the value of the Fund or to reduce the risks of certain investments.

**Environmental, social and governance:** A list of predefined criteria that determines how a company operates in terms of sustainability and overall corporate governance.

#### **Risks**

**Investment Risk** The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

**Credit Risk** Issuers of certain fixed income securities could become unable to make income or capital payments on their debt. As such the value of a security will fall in the event of a rating downgrade or default of the issuer. In general fixed income securities that pay a higher level of income usually have a lower credit rating because of the increased risk of default.

**Responsible Investment Style Risk** The Fund can only invest in holdings that demonstrate compliance with certain sustainable indicators or ESG characteristics. This reduces the number of securities in which the Fund can invest and there may as a result be occasions where it forgoes more strongly performing investment opportunities, potentially underperforming non-sustainable funds. **Exchange Rate Risk** Investing in assets denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund means the value of the investment can be affected by changes in exchange rates.

**Interest Rate Risk** Fixed interest securities are particularly affected by trends in interest rates and inflation. If interest rates go up, the value of capital may fall, and vice versa. Inflation will also decrease the real value of capital.

**Liquidity Risk** In difficult market conditions the value of certain fund investments may be less predictable than normal. In some cases this may make such investments harder to sell at the last quoted market price, or at a price considered to be fair. Such conditions could result in unpredictable changes in the value of your holding.

## **Fund Restrictions Definitions**

**Adult Entertainment:** Companies which own or produce adult entertainment services, or engage in the distribution or sale of adult entertainment services.

**Alcohol:** Companies which have involvement in brewing, distillation or sale of alcoholic drinks. **Animal Welfare:** Companies that conduct animal testing (other than for purposes of human or animal health and/or where it is required by law or regulation).

**Armaments:** Companies who manufacture armaments or nuclear weapons or associated products. **Controversial Weapons:** Weapons which have an indiscriminate and disproportional impact on civilians or weapons that are illegal and prohibited by international conventions and treaties.

**Fossil Fuels:** Companies involved in the exploration, extraction or refining of oil, or gas, or coal, plus any activity relating to thermal coal.

**Gambling:** Companies who promote irresponsible gambling which includes betting shops, casinos or amusement arcades.

**High Environmental Impact:** Companies which have a high environmental impact, and which have 'no evidence' of appropriate environmental management systems.

**Human Rights Risks:** Companies with a strategic presence operating in countries of concern and which have 'no evidence' of policies or systems to manage human rights risks.

Nuclear Power: Companies who generate energy from Nuclear Power.

**Nuclear Weapons:** Companies that manufacture, nuclear; or are involved in the production of intended-use parts, whole weapons systems, or exclusive delivery platforms.

**Tobacco:** Companies which are growing, processing or selling tobacco products.