



PORTFOLIO UPDATE - JUNE 5, 2017

As we approach the halfway point of the year, we continue to monitor global markets and assess our tactical positioning. Last year at this time, investors were holding their collective breath regarding the outcome of the referendum regarding the U.K.'s membership in the EU (the "Brexit" vote). As it turns out, we have more pending drama in Great Britain this year. Prime Minister Theresa May called a snap election in an effort to consolidate her power base and strengthen her Brexit mandate. While her Conservative Party had a significant lead only a few weeks ago, the election race appears to have tightened. While we will continue to follow those developments, we have growing conviction in the nations across the Channel. With further signs that the Eurozone economy remains on a steady, improving course, we have increased our equity exposure there, funding it from our Japanese equity position.

Over the last year, we had avoided exposure to Europe due to slow economic growth, weak fundamentals, and concerns about political instability. However, based on signs of sustainable economic momentum and receding political risk, we re-engaged in late April. Our conviction in the region has continued to increase based on attractive earnings growth and affirmation of monetary policy accommodation by the European Central Bank. Our Eurozone equity exposure is now neutral relative to our benchmark.

We chose to fund the increased Eurozone positioning by reducing our exposure to Japan. We had maintained a slight overweight to Japan throughout this year based on attractive valuations, improving corporate governance and continued accommodative policy by the Bank of Japan. But earnings remain lukewarm, with the lowest growth rate across major developed markets. And we have growing concerns about the Abe regime as it pursues more isolationist policies and quietly reduces societal freedoms. With improving fundamentals and real economic growth, we believe the Eurozone represents a more attractive opportunity for equity investors.

In terms of overall positioning, we continue to maintain a preference for the U.S. across equities and fixed income. We also have a favorable view of Asia ex-Japan and the emerging markets. We continue to maintain a significant overweight to U.S. equities, primarily funded from non-U.S. bonds. Within fixed income, our exposure to U.S. corporate credit is substantially higher than our benchmark. Our portfolios maintain lower duration than the benchmark and broad exposure to non-U.S. bonds at weights below our benchmark. We have no emerging market debt at this time.



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