# **Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

# **AGF European Equity Fund**

September 30, 2021



# Management Discussion of Fund Performance

This management discussion of fund performance represents the portfolio management team's view of the significant factors and developments affecting the fund's performance and outlook.

### Investment Objective and Strategies

Pursuant to the Declaration of Trust, the investment objective of AGF European Equity Fund (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth by investing primarily in shares of companies operating mainly in Europe and that trade on European stock exchanges. AGF Investments Inc. ("AGFI"), as portfolio manager, uses a bottom-up value investment approach to select stocks that appear to be trading at a discount to their estimated fair value. A bottomup investment approach focuses attention on a specific company rather than on the industry in which that company operates or on the economy as a whole. The portfolio manager evaluates the financial condition and management of a company, its industry and the overall economy, and looks for stocks that are selling at a substantial discount to its estimate of their intrinsic business value. During periods of market downturn or for other reasons, a significant portion of the Fund's assets may be held in cash, cash equivalents or fixed income securities.

#### Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund remain as disclosed in the current prospectus. Any changes to the Fund over the period have not affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

The international spread of COVID-19 has heightened certain risks associated with investing in the Fund, including liquidity risk. There are many factors that affect liquidity as well as the value of an investment. Those factors generally affect securities markets, including but not limited to general economic and political conditions, fluctuations in interest rates and factors unique to each issuer of the securities held by an investment fund, such as changes in management, strategic direction, achievement of strategic goals, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, changes in distribution and dividend policies and other events. While the precise impact of the COVID-19 outbreak remains unknown, it has introduced uncertainty and volatility in global markets and economies. The duration of the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact cannot be determined with certainty, but it may adversely affect the performance of the Fund. The portfolio manager, however, does not believe any changes to the Fund over the period has affected the overall risk of the Fund.

The Fund continues to be suitable for investors investing for the longer term, seeking the growth potential of equity securities of European companies and who have medium to high tolerance for risk. The suitability of the Fund has not changed from what has been disclosed in the prospectus.

### **Results of Operations**

For the year ended September 30, 2021, Series S Units of the Fund returned 30.7% (net of expenses) while the MSCI Europe Index returned 21.7%. Unlike the benchmark, the Fund may be subject to valuation adjustments as outlined in the Fund's valuation policies as it relates to non-North American equities held by the Fund. A fair value adjustment can either positively or negatively impact the Fund's rate of return.

The Fund out-performed the MSCI Europe Index due to positive security selection in the financials, materials, consumer discretionary and industrials sectors. This was partially offset by security selection in the information technology and health care sectors. The Fund's active exposure to the financials and energy sectors also contributed positively to returns, while its active exposure to the consumer discretionary and information technology sectors detracted. From a geographic perspective, the Fund's allocations to France, Ireland and the UK contributed positively, while its allocations to Switzerland and Italy detracted.

The Fund had net redemptions of approximately \$11 million for the current period, as compared to net subscriptions of approximately \$1 million in the prior period. Rebalancing by an institutional program resulted in net redemptions of approximately \$1 million in the Fund. The portfolio manager does not believe that redemption/subscription activity had a meaningful impact on the Fund's performance or the ability to implement its investment strategy.

Total expenses before foreign withholding taxes, commissions and other portfolio transaction costs vary period over period mainly as a result of changes in average Net Asset Values (see Explanatory Note (1) a)) and investor activity, such as number of investor accounts and transactions. Expenses have increased as compared to the previous period due mainly to an increase in average Net Asset Values. Custodian fees increased due to an increase in market value of investment portfolio and interest expense increased due to an increase in overdraft positions throughout the period. All other expenses remained fairly consistent throughout the periods.

## **Recent Developments**

The portfolio manager is positive on the outlook for global economic growth and equities. Despite relatively slow progress in some jurisdictions, the portfolio manager is

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1 800 268-8583, by writing to us at AGF Investments Inc., 55 Standish Court, Suite 1050, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada LSR 0G3 attention: Client Services, or by visiting our website at www.agf.com or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

encouraged by the continued progression of the vaccine rollouts globally. Positively, governments and central banks remain focused on economic recovery and are committed to ongoing stimulus. The unprecedented level of stimulus will likely result in further improvement of global economic activity, earnings growth and the potential for higher bond yields, which should continue to support global equities, particularly cyclical and value stocks. As the global economy continues to recover, the risks of much higher bond yields or inflation could result in central banks withdrawing stimulus, leading to a sell-off in equity and bond markets.

In Europe, the portfolio manager is encouraged by the pace of vaccinations, paving the way for more restrictions on mobility and travel to be relaxed. The Eurozone has provided significant stimulus, which combined with the accelerating vaccination campaign and reopening of economies, should continue to support economic recovery and equity markets in the region. The European Union has also taken an important incremental step toward unified fiscal support with the €750.0 billion recovery fund, which endorses the principle of the mutualization of debt in the region. Additionally, the European Central Bank's continued expansion of its balance sheet also remains supportive.

The portfolio manager continues to believe in the long-term opportunity for Europe, particularly given the attractive valuations and the gearing the region will have to a global recovery. The portfolio manager expects the reflationary environment to re-emerge heading into the end of calendar year 2021 and into 2022. However, volatility should be expected in the interim.

### **Related Party Transactions**

AGFI is the manager ("Manager") and trustee of the Fund. Pursuant to the management agreement between the Fund and AGFI, AGFI is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Fund. AGFI also acts as the investment (portfolio) manager, managing the investment portfolio of the Fund. The Fund was also party to an investment advisory agreement with AGFI and AGF International Advisors Company Limited ("AGF International"). AGF International acts as an investment advisor and provides investment advisory services to the Fund. Under the management and investment advisory agreements, the Fund pays management and advisory fees calculated based on the Net Asset Value of Series S Units of the Fund. Management and advisory fees of approximately \$654,000 were incurred by the Fund during the period ended September 30, 2021.

AGFI and AGF International are indirect and direct whollyowned subsidiaries of AGF Management Limited, respectively.

#### **Caution Regarding Forward-looking Statements**

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategy, expected performance and condition. Forward looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates" or negative versions thereof and similar expressions.

In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and economic factors.

The forward-looking statements are by their nature based on numerous assumptions, which include, amongst other things, that (i) the Fund can attract and maintain investors and has sufficient capital under management to effect its investment strategies, (ii) the investment strategies will produce the results intended by the portfolio manager, and (iii) the markets will react and perform in a manner consistent with the investment strategies. Although the forward-looking statements contained herein are based upon what the portfolio manager believes to be reasonable assumptions, the portfolio manager cannot assure that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forwardlooking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to these digressions, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, taxation, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, technological changes, cybersecurity, the possible effects of war or terrorist activities, outbreaks of disease or illness that affect local, national or international economies (such as COVID-19), natural disasters and disruptions to public infrastructure, such as transportation, communications, power or water supply or other catastrophic events.

It should be stressed that the above-mentioned list of factors is not exhaustive. You are encouraged to consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you are urged to avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Further, you should be aware of the fact that the Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, prior to the release of the next Management Report of Fund Performance.

# **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five years as applicable.

### Series S Units - Net Assets per Unit(1)

For the periods ended	Sept 30, 2021 (\$)	Sept 30, 2020 (\$)	Sept 30, 2019 (\$)	Sept 30, 2018 (\$)	Sept 30, 2017 (\$)
Net Assets, beginning of period <sup>(1)</sup>	8.52	9.59	9.94	10.36	9.11
Increase (decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.36	0.30	0.40	0.41	0.49
Total expenses	(0.12)	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.16)	(0.14)
Realized gains (losses)	0.37	0.07	(86.0)	0.21	0.22
Unrealized gains (losses)	2.11	(0.95)	0.13	(0.67)	1.05
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	2.72	(0.67)	(0.27)	(0.21)	1.62
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	(0.22)	(0.37)	(0.25)	(0.27)	(0.25)
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup> Net Assets, end of period <sup>(4)</sup>	(0.22) 10.88	(0.37) 8.52	(0.25) 9.59	(0.27) 9.94	(0.25) 10.36

# Series S Units - Ratios/Supplemental Data<sup>(1)</sup>

	Sept 30,				
For the periods ended	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Net Asset Value (\$000's)	64,806	59,859	65,285	100,269	58,848
Number of units outstanding (000's)	5,957	7,022	6,808	10,090	5,679
Management expense ratio <sup>(5)</sup>	0.57%	0.57%	0.57%	0.59%	0.88%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(6)</sup>	1.30%	1.31%	1.27%	1.25%	1.31%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(7)</sup>	0.11%	0.14%	0.22%	0.40%	0.22%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(8)</sup>	10.64%	20.52%	23.57%	32.76%	30.50%
Net Asset Value per unit	10.88	8.52	9.59	9.94	10.36

## **Explanatory Notes**

- (1) a) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. Under International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), investments that are traded in an active market are generally valued at closing price, which is determined to be within the bid-ask spread and most representative of fair value. As a result, there is no difference between the net assets per unit presented in the financial statements ("Net Assets") and the net asset value per unit calculated for fund pricing purposes ("Net Asset Value").
  - b) Series S Units of the Fund commenced operations in January 2015, which represents the date upon which securities were first made available for purchase by investors.
- (2) Net Assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.
- (3) Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both. The computation of the distributions per unit does not take into account the management fee distributions (see note 5 below). The characterization of the distributions is based on management's estimate of the actual income for the year.
- (4) This is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending Net Assets per unit.

- (5) The management expense ratio ("MER") of a particular series is calculated in accordance with National Instrument 81-106, based on all the expenses of the Fund (including Harmonized Sales Tax, Goods and Services Tax and interest, but excluding foreign withholding taxes, commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) and the Fund's proportionate share of the MER, if applicable, of the underlying funds and exchange traded funds ("ETFs") in which the Fund has invested, allocated to that series, expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily Net Asset Value of that series during the period. For new series launched, the MER is annualized from the date of the first external purchase.
  - AGFI may reduce the effective management fee payable by some unitholders by reducing the management fee it charges to the Fund and directing the Fund to make management fee distributions to these unitholders in amounts equal to the amounts of the management fee reduction. The MER does not take into account the reduction in management fees due to management fee distributions to unitholders.
- (6) AGFI waived certain fees or absorbed certain expenses otherwise payable by the Fund. The amount of expenses waived or absorbed is determined annually on a series by series basis at the discretion of AGFI and AGFI can terminate the waiver or absorption at any time.
- (7) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, including the Fund's proportionate share of the commissions, if applicable, of the underlying funds and ETFs in which the Fund has invested, expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily Net Asset Value during the period.
- (8) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate ("PTR") indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A PTR of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's PTR in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

PTR is calculated based on the lesser of the cumulative cost of purchases or cumulative proceeds of sales divided by the average market value of the portfolio, excluding short-term investments.

# Management Fees

The Fund is managed by AGFI. As a result of providing investment advisory and management services, AGFI receives a monthly management and advisory fee, based on the Net Asset Value of Series S Units. AGFI uses these management and advisory fees to pay for investment advice,

as well as for general administrative expenses such as overhead, salaries, rent, legal and accounting fees relating to AGFI's role as manager.

		As a percentage of management and advisor		
	Annual rate	Dealer compensation	General administration and investment advice	
Series S Units	1.00%	-	100.00%	

# Past Performance\*

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. Note that the performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. How the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

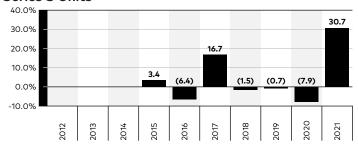
It is AGFI's policy to report rates of return for series in existence greater than one year. The performance start date for each series represents the date of the first purchase of such series, excluding seed money.

All rates of return are calculated based on the Net Asset Value.

### Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the past 10 years to September 30, 2021 as applicable, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.

## Series S Units



Performance for 2015 represents returns for the period from January 15, 2015 to September 30, 2015.

## **Annual Compound Returns**

The following table compares the historical annual compound returns for each series with the index, for each of the periods ended September 30, 2021.

Percentage Return:	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
Series S Units	30.7	6.1	6.6	N/A	4.3
MSCI Europe Index	21.7	77	8.7	N/A	8.0

The MSCI Europe Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of the developed markets in Europe.

For a discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the index, see Results of Operations in the Management Discussion of Fund Performance.

# Summary of Investment Portfolio

As at September 30, 2021

The major portfolio categories and top holdings (up to 25) of the Fund at the end of the period are indicated in the following tables. The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and the next quarterly update will be in the Quarterly Portfolio Disclosure as at December 31, 2021.

Portfolio by Country	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
France	25.7
United Kingdom	19.9
Germany	16.4
Switzerland	12.6
Ireland	7.5
Italy	5.9
Netherlands	4.0
Spain	3.7
Luxembourg	2.4
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.5

Portfolio by Sector	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
Financials	23.3
Industrials	16.1
Health Care	12.9
Consumer Staples	10.8
Materials	9.4
Information Technology	7.9
Energy	7.5
Consumer Discretionary	4.9
Utilities	3.6
Communication Services	1.7
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.5

<sup>\*</sup> The indicated rates of return shown here are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in security value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges by any securityholder that would have reduced returns or performance. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

# AGF European Equity Fund

Portfolio by Asset Mix	Percentage of Net Asset Value (%)
International Equity	98.1
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.5

Ton Unidings	Percentage of
Top Holdings	Net Asset Value (%)
Siemens AG	5.2
BNP Paribas SA	4.3
SAP SE	4.2
Royal Dutch Shell PLC	4.2
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain	4.1
Novartis AG	4.1
ING Groep NV	4.0
Roche Holding AG	3.9
AXA SA	3.8
BAE Systems PLC	3.4
Nestle SA	3.4
Bank of Ireland Group PLC	3.2
Danone SA	3.1
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	2.5
Smith & Nephew PLC	2.5
ArcelorMittal SA	2.4
Enel SpA	2.3
TotalEnergies SE	2.2
CRH PLC	2.2
Daimler AG	2.1
Sanofi	2.0
BASF SE	1.8
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	1.8
Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA	1.6
Indra Sistemas SA	1.6
Total Net Asset Value (thousands of dollars)	\$ 64,806



For more information contact your investment advisor or:

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