

Investment Navigator

Asia Edition

DON'T COP OUT: COP WINS!! Long Live the Energy Transition!

Key questions

- Is the Energy Transition moving too fast? Is it too costly? Or is the rally in commodities exposing the normal supply and demand imbalances that occur in rapid global economic recovery?
- With COP 26 a key question is focusing on the bottlenecks in the energy value chain. What combination of private and public policy will get us to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050? What are the investment opportunities?
- What more? What is the investment case for India, the Emerging Giant in Asia - the best performing major market in the world in 2021?

Is The Energy Transition Moving Too Fast Or Is It Not Fast Enough?

This question is reverberating globally as we recently went through a spike in many commodity prices, shortages of natural gas, as winter approaches. **Can we afford the costs of climate change?** The ongoing COP 26 meetings in Glasgow are at a crucial cross-road to discuss the most important societal and investment opportunity of this generation.

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Commodities Rally With Cyclical Recovery

First of all, commodities normally rise in periods of economic recovery. The current recovery is different in the sense that it arose from an exogenous shock, where governments globally shut down economies during the height of the pandemic. Hence, when the economies globally started reopening, we witnessed the fastest economic recovery in 50 years.

Underinvestment In The Previous Commodity Cycle

Secondly, there was a commodity bear market in the previous cycle, hence, capex and underinvestment exacerbated the supply side issues. For example, it takes on average 6-8 years to build a greenfield copper mine. Therefore, the 2009-2020 capex underspend laid the foundation of the supply side issues we suffer from today.

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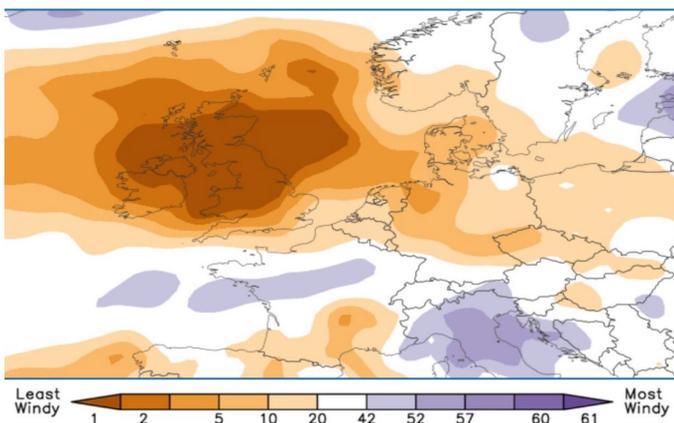
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Stronger Demand And Lagging Supply = Rising Prices

Thirdly, the rapid economic recovery this year exposed the underestimation of supply. In Europe, the increase in natural gas prices has been caused by a prolonged previous winter, and lack of LNG cargoes over the summer which led to tight supply conditions. This was aggravated by poor domestic production and lower supplies from Russia. **In fact, the UK & Ireland had a “Wind Drought” with the least windy time period in 60 years affecting windmill power.**

APR TO SEP 2021: LEAST WINDY SUCH PERIOD FOR UK & IRELAND IN 60 YEARS



Source: Bloomberg, BNP Paribas (WM), as of 8 Oct 2021
Past performance is not indicative of current or future performance.

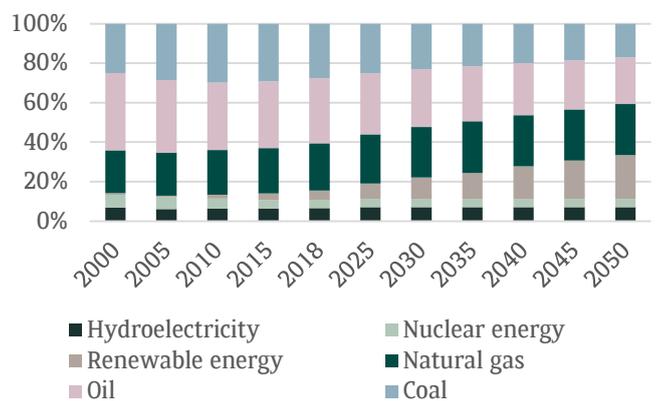
In China, electricity demand has increased by double digits due to robust exports and shrinkage of coal supply by just 5%. As a result, natural gas as an alternative fuel has rocketed in price. Rules to lower energy intensity have since been loosened temporarily. We have subsequently seen a correction in coal prices in China after the authorities acted to increase supply and reduce intensive energy usage in the past month.

Energy Transition Is A Multi-decade Process

Fourthly, the energy transition was always going to be a multi-decade process. The world currently relies on fossil fuels for 80% of energy needs. Oil and gas are transition fuels. Crucially, but not well understood, this transition is aided by the replacement of capital stock at the end of its useful life, which is easier and less expensive to execute.

For example, the average age of coal plants in North America and Europe were already advanced, therefore, swift replacement of aging coal plants made perfect economic sense. However, in Asia, the average age of a coal plant is only 13 years. Another example is EV adoption rates. The average life of a car is 10-13 years in developed markets, and it is natural to see an upgrade cycle over time as these cars age. At the end of 2020, while demand explodes, the global EV penetration was still only at 4.5%. However, this will likely accelerate with to 25% by 2030 and 70% by 2080. Higher commodity prices could also help boost adoption.

GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY TYPE 2000 - 2050



Source: IEA World, Statisa, BNP Paribas (WM), as of 8 Oct 2021. Past performance is not indicative of current or future performance.

Climate Change Is Investment Risk & Return

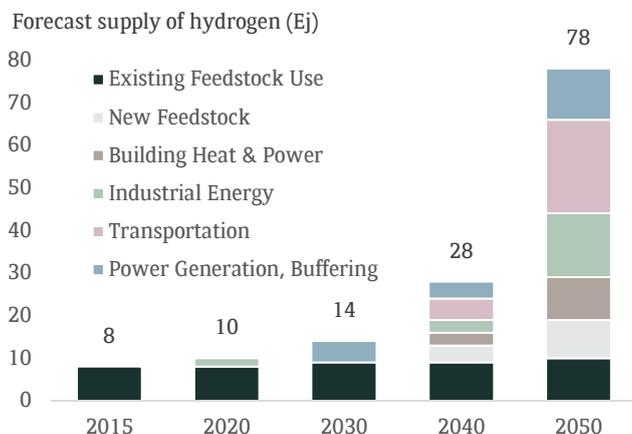
The irony here is that the rise of commodity prices were due to a number of complex factors. That has now translated into a more pressing need for solutions with regards to energy infrastructure value chain versus pre-pandemic. **For instance, one of the key bottlenecks is high capacity batteries for storage of renewable power, which would possibly help solve the “wind drought” issues.**

Invest In Solutions To Energy Bottlenecks

100 GWs of these high capacity batteries will be in place by 2050 as an example. **It is estimated the world requires \$150 trillion investment over the next 30 years, which is twice global GDP to meet decarbonisation goals.** Focus on the entire value chain which will create multi-decade investment

opportunities including (1) renewable energy capacity, (2) energy storage, (3) batteries, (4) carbon pricing, (5) carbon capture and storage, and (6) grid connectivity and (7) HYDROGEN to name just a few of the key bottlenecks attracting significant investment.

HUGE GROWTH POTENTIAL IN HYDROGEN: SUPPORTS MULTIPLE SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS



Source: BNP Paribas WM, as of 8 Oct 2021
Past performance is not indicative of current or future performance.

Global Public Policy A Key Driver

Furthermore, public policy is also driving this acceleration with the Europe's "Green New Deal", the US "Build, Back, Better" and China's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2060. These are fundamental building blocks, which can aid the acceleration of adoption, with the phasing out of petrol engines or early retirement of coal plants, even in emerging countries. At the COP 26, India

stole the show by agreeing to carbon neutrality by 2070. Clearly, the momentum for energy transition is increasing, with EMs now coming onboard.

India The Emerging Giant

As for India, we have decided to take profits on largely due to the extremely strong price action, moving from Overweight to Neutral. The Sensex has appreciated circa 60% since the upgrade in end May 2019, 52% last 12 months, and 29% year-to-date as of October 28th. It is the best performing major equity market in the world in 2021. It trades at a record 60% premium to Asia stocks and near 100% valuation premium to China equities. The Sensex 30 Index trades at a 26x current year earnings and 22x next year earnings. Furthermore, higher energy prices and higher inflation will lead to RBI rate hikes as we are seeing globally.

Why Should India Trade At A Premium And It Has Historically?

India long-term fundamentals remain strong. (1) Improving business landscape under PM Modi, (2) Young population – demographics key to growth in an aging world, (3) Lower levels of debt compared to other major countries, (4) Large and growing domestic market, and (5) Strong culture of high return on equity with company returns. Two of the top three wealthiest people in all of Asia are located in India, reflecting the massive domestic growth catch-up potential. **We would revisit the case on a market pullback.** India also provides diversification potential from China, which was especially evident this year.

CONCLUSION / STRATEGY:

In summary, we have been long "green real assets" and profited by the increase in commodity prices as consistent with a vigorous cyclical recovery. However, this only strengthens the case for further investment and acceleration of the private and public partnership driving the fight to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It is estimated the world requires \$150 trillion investment over the next 30 years, which is twice global GDP to meet decarbonisation goals. National security and energy security go hand-in-hand. This is also one of the key issues where there is true global consensus. Investors should focus investments on key bottlenecks as well as adopt ESG integration across your mainstream investment portfolios.



Overview of our CIO Asset Allocation for November 2021

	Views		Constituents	We like	We avoid	Comments
	Current	Prior				
EQUITIES	+	+	Markets	EU, UK, Japan, EM		Cyclical/value, improving profitability plus M&A activity are the key attractions in these key stock markets.
			Sectors	Real Estate, Financials, Healthcare, Semiconductors, Construction, Gold miners, EU Energy	Utilities	
			Styles/Themes	Megatrend themes		Good potential remains for secular themes such as 5G, AI, cloud, cybersecurity, smart consumers, health tech, water, waste & infrastructure.
BONDS	-	-	Govies		US long-term Treasuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Our 10-year US bond yield target is 2%. ■ We are neutral on US short-term bonds
			Segments	Emerging Markets Bonds (USD + local currency) Fallen Angels & Rising Stars		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We are neutral on US investment grade (IG) corporate bonds ■ We keep a neutral stance on US high yield (HY). We prefer Fallen Angels & Rising Stars. ■ We are positive on EM bonds, in both hard and local currency.
CASH	=	=				
COMMODITIES	+	+		Gold		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gold - positive: We expect gold to trade in the \$1800-2000 range. ■ Oil - neutral: Our 1-year target is \$70-80. ■ Base metals - neutral: Our medium-term outlook remains bullish as demand will increase & supply will remain tight
FOREX			EURUSD			Our 12-month target remains 1.18.
ALTERNATIVE				Real Estate; Private Equity Macro, Event-driven Hedge Funds		We are neutral on Relative Value & Long/Short Equity, with a preference for Macro & Event Driven strategies.

Note: + Positive / = Neutral / - Negative



GDP & CPI Forecasts

		GDP (YoY%)			CPI (YoY%)		
		2020	2021f	2022f	2020	2021f	2022f
Developed	Global	-3.3	5.7	5.1	-	-	-
	US	-3.5	6.0	5.3	1.2	4.2	2.8
	Japan	-4.7	2.1	2.4	0.0	-0.2	0.3
	Eurozone	-6.7	5.0	5.2	0.3	2.4	2.1
	UK	-9.8	7.0	6.3	0.9	2.3	3.3
	Developing Asia	-5.3	5.2	8.3	3.8	3.8	3.2
North Asia	China	2.3	7.8	5.6	2.5	1.2	2.8
	Hong Kong*	-6.1	6.4	3.5	0.3	1.9	2.1
	South Korea	-1.0	3.9	3.0	0.5	2.1	1.7
	Taiwan*	3.1	5.9	3.3	-0.2	1.6	1.5
South Asia	India	-7.2	7.0	11.2	6.1	5.4	4.5
	Indonesia	-2.1	2.8	5.6	2.0	1.5	1.8
	Malaysia	-5.7	4.1	5.6	-1.1	2.3	0.4
	Philippines*	-9.5	3.2	6.3	2.6	4.3	3.0
	Singapore*	-5.4	6.0	3.2	-0.2	1.6	1.5
	Thailand	-6.2	0.9	3.4	-0.8	0.7	1.0

Source: BNP Paribas Group Economic Research, BNP Paribas Global Markets forecasts as of 31 October 2021

* IMF data and forecasts as of 31 October 2021



GROWTH

- Growth rate in Q4 should be affected by the supply bottlenecks in a context of a strong increase in year-end demand.
- We expect more reopening of major economies in 2022. Fiscal policy in the USA and in Eurozone should remain accommodative and will sustain the economy for the coming year notably through investments in energy transition.



INFLATION

- Inflation can stay high for longer than anticipated. Over the coming months, key drivers will be base effects and supply chain constraints. Medium-term the key will be the job market evolution.
- We do not see the comparison with the 1970's stagflation: (1) Density trade union has gone down across most developed countries and limits wages spiral inflation. (2) Central banks in DMs have strong credibility in fighting inflation. (3) Delivery times is far lower than during 70's .



Equity

POSITIVE NEUTRAL NEGATIVE

OVERALL GLOBAL: POSITIVE



COUNTRY

Eurozone
Emerging Mkt
Japan
UK

US

-

SECTOR

Healthcare
Real Estate
FinancialsConsu. Discre.
Technology
Energy
Comms
Materials
Industrials
Consu. Sta.

Utilities

OVERALL ASIA: POSITIVE



COUNTRY

China, Taiwan
Singapore
South Korea
Indonesia▼ India
Thailand
Malaysia
Philippines

-

SECTOR

Technology
Healthcare
Industrials
Consu. Sta.
▲ Utilities▼ Consu. Discre.
Comms
Energy
Materials
Real Estate

Financials

- Strong earnings momentum on the back of a bullish Q3 result season, allied with rising buybacks, negative real yields and boosted M&A activity are key drivers for global stocks.
- Downgrade India to neutral** after a 25% rally YTD. The market trades at a record 60% premium to its Asian counterparts. Also, high energy prices and higher inflation will lead to rate hikes by the RBI.
- Upgrade Asia utilities to overweight** as the potential and need for **renewable energy** in Asia is significant. Utilities companies will play a key role with the help of government policies.
- Downgrade Asia consumer discretionary to neutral** amid high valuations, near term sales growth moderation and the impact of "common prosperity".

		1-month (%)	YTD (%)	2020 (%)	Forward PE (x)	Trailing PB (x)	Dividend Yield (%) 2021f	EPS Growth (%) 2021f	EPS Growth (%) 2022f	ROE (%) 2021f
Developed	US	6.9	22.0	19.2	21.8	5.1	1.8	48.8	7.4	22.7
	Japan	-1.3	11.2	6.6	15.0	1.6	1.9	20.0	33.5	8.9
	Eurozone	4.0	18.5	-2.7	15.8	2.0	2.3	64.7	9.1	11.0
	UK	2.2	12.4	-16.1	12.3	1.9	3.6	79.6	2.4	11.0
	Asia Ex-Japan	1.3	-3.7	22.5	14.4	2.0	2.3	39.8	9.2	11.6
North Asia	China	3.0	-15.2	25.9	13.6	1.9	2.4	14.5	16.1	11.3
	Hong Kong	1.2	-1.0	2.1	16.3	1.3	2.8	23.9	15.8	7.9
	South Korea	-3.6	-3.9	34.0	10.5	1.3	2.4	114.6	-1.9	13.8
	Taiwan	0.5	13.6	28.6	14.4	2.9	2.7	56.7	0.2	19.6
South Asia	India	0.0	27.6	16.8	24.0	4.2	1.1	34.9	18.0	13.6
	Indonesia	7.2	2.8	-9.5	15.9	2.7	2.4	29.6	20.2	14.2
	Malaysia	1.2	-6.7	-1.7	14.7	1.6	4.0	106.6	-11.2	10.3
	Philippines	2.1	-0.5	-9.7	18.1	2.0	1.3	49.3	27.6	6.9
	Singapore	3.6	13.1	-12.8	15.4	1.5	3.4	47.3	14.3	8.0
	Thailand	0.9	6.4	-13.9	18.9	2.3	2.6	60.1	12.6	9.0

Source: MSCI indices in local currency terms, Bloomberg, Datastream, BNP Paribas (WM), as of 31 October 2021

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Fixed Income

😊 POSITIVE 😐 NEUTRAL 😞 NEGATIVE

OVERALL GLOBAL: NEGATIVE

OVERALL ASIA (USD): NEUTRAL



EMD (LC)
EMD (HC)

Short-term UST
US IG
High Yield

Long-term UST

Hong Kong

India
Philippines
South Korea
Indonesia
China

-

		Total Return (%)			Yield-to-Worst (%)
		1-Month	2020	2019	
Asia	Asia USD Bond	-0.7	5.5	7.3	3.3
	Asia Local Currency Bond	0.0	1.6	9.7	3.5
	China	-1.6	1.9	6.1	4.5
	Hong Kong	-0.4	8.3	8.0	2.5
	India	0.3	9.7	6.7	3.4
	Indonesia	0.6	9.7	9.8	2.9
	Singapore	0.0	7.1	6.9	2.1
	South Korea	-0.4	6.5	6.9	1.5
	Philippines	0.7	6.4	7.4	2.6
Other Regions	US 10-year Treasuries	-0.7	4.9	8.7	1.6
	US Investment Grades (IG)	0.0	5.8	7.5	1.7
	US High Yield (HY)	-0.2	11.8	7.1	4.2
	Emerging Market USD Bond	-1.3	4.1	6.8	4.4

Source: Barclays indices, Bloomberg, BNP Paribas (WM) as of 31 October 2021

US Treasury 12-month Yield Targets (%)	2Y	5Y	10Y	30Y
	0.6	1.25	2.0	2.6

- The Fed announced to begin tapering from November, reducing purchases by USD15bn per month (USD10bn Treasuries and USD5bn mortgages back securities). This should see a fairly rapid taper that will conclude in mid-2022. The bar for interest rate hikes is higher and the Fed's view remains that inflation is transitory. We expect the first rate hike in 4Q 2022.
- We expect long-term bond yields to continue to move higher given inflation worries and central moving away from the Covid-19 emergency measures. We keep our 2% target for the UST 10-year yield on a 12-month horizon.
- **Neutral on US HY corporate bonds** given high valuations. We prefer rising stars and fallen angels. Rising stars are still trading wide to lower IG bonds.
- **Stay positive on EM bonds (both USD and local currency):** The recent spread widening is an opportunity. The asset class is seeing some support from negative US real yields. We also think that EM currencies have room to appreciate and that the market has already priced in the monetary policy tightening.

Forex & Commodities

😊 POSITIVE 😐 NEUTRAL 😞 NEGATIVE

12-MONTH FOREX VIEW



JPY	USD	EUR	GBP	INR
	AUD	NZD	CAD	
	CNY	HKD	KRW	
	TWD	IDR	MYR	
	PHP	SGD	THB	

COMMODITIES



Gold	Oil	-
	Base metal	

12M EURUSD target at 1.18: Eurozone growth is expected to be well above trend but risks are linked to supply shocks and high energy prices, especially natural gas, that could put a dent in growth figures. Eurozone's Inflation figures have not peaked yet, while inflation risks are lower in Europe relative to the US.

A medium-term risk for the EURUSD pair lies in asymmetric inflation. If inflation in the US turns systemic, the euro could strengthen significantly, as strong wage inflation in the Eurozone is unlikely.

GOLD: Rising inflation concerns are positive for gold. Real yields should rise moderately while remaining negative. For next year, we expect gold to trade in the **\$1800-2000** range as supply and demand outlook remain favorable.

OIL: OPEC+'s tight supply management, declining inventories and additional demand due to substitution effects of natural gas pushed Brent up to \$85/barrel. There are increasing calls for OPEC+ to increase output. Prices should be back in the **\$70-80** range.

BASE METALS: China's metals consumption is expected to remain soft during the winter. There could be a strong recovery from the spring on the back of a probable China policy easing in early 2022, a moderation of energy supply constraints and major auto & manufacturing goods re-stocking.

Forex Forecasts

		Spot	3-month		12-month	
		As of 31 Oct 2021	View	Target	View	Target
Developed	USD Index*	94.12	=	93.9	=	92.5
	Japan	114.0	+	111	+	111
	Eurozone	1.157	=	1.16	=	1.18
	UK	1.371	=	1.36	=	1.40
	Australia	0.751	-	0.73	=	0.76
	New Zealand	0.718	-	0.70	=	0.73
	Canada	1.240	=	1.25	=	1.24
Asia Ex-Japan	China	6.399	=	6.50	=	6.50
	Hong Kong*	7.779	=	7.79	=	7.79
	South Korea*	1,169	=	1,175	=	1,180
	Taiwan*	27.81	=	27.9	=	28.2
	India	74.88	=	76.0	-	78.0
	Indonesia*	14,168	=	14,300	=	14,500
	Malaysia*	4.141	=	4.13	=	4.13
	Philippines*	50.41	=	49.0	=	51.6
	Singapore*	1.349	=	1.35	=	1.35
Thailand*	33.18	=	32.50	=	33.10	

Source: BNP Paribas (WM) as of 31 October 2021

*BNP Paribas Global Markets forecast as of 31 October 2021

Note: + Positive / = Neutral / - Negative



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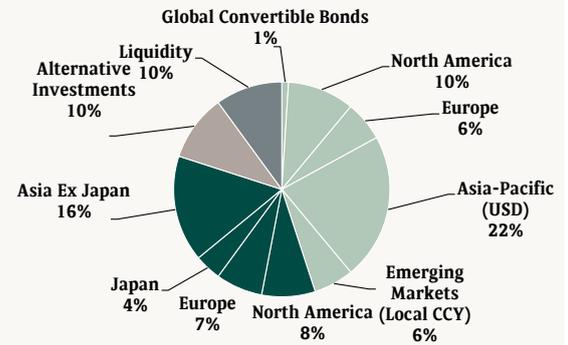
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Strategic & Tactical Asset Allocation

OUR TACTICAL ASSET ALLOCATION IS BASED ON OUR CIO'S ASSET ALLOCATION VIEWS. THERE IS NO CHANGE THIS MONTH.

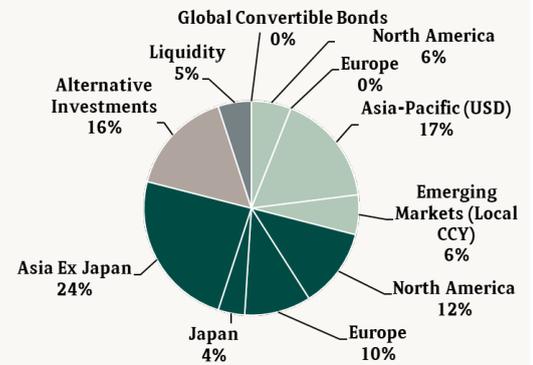
INVESTMENT PROFILE: BALANCED

	STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION	TACTICAL POSITIONING	THIS MONTH'S TACTICAL ASSET ALLOCATION
FIXED INCOME	50%	-5%	45%
EQUITIES	30%	+5%	35%
ALTERNATIVES	10%	-	10%
LIQUIDITY	10%	-	10%



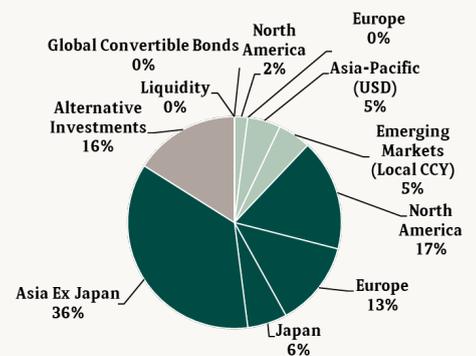
INVESTMENT PROFILE: DYNAMIC

	STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION	TACTICAL POSITIONING	THIS MONTH'S TACTICAL ASSET ALLOCATION
FIXED INCOME	35%	-6%	29%
EQUITIES	45%	+5%	50%
ALTERNATIVES	15%	+1%	16%
LIQUIDITY	5%	-	5%



INVESTMENT PROFILE: VERY DYNAMIC

	STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION	TACTICAL POSITIONING	THIS MONTH'S TACTICAL ASSET ALLOCATION
FIXED INCOME	20%	-8%	12%
EQUITIES	65%	+7%	72%
ALTERNATIVES	15%	+1%	16%
LIQUIDITY	0%	-	0%



Source: MyAdvisory, as of 2 November 2021

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