

BLACKROCK CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN FUND

**BLACKROCK®** 

For the period from 26 July 2013 to 31 August 2013

# BlackRock Continental European Fund

As communicated in a letter to investors dated 28 May 2013, the Manager has changed the Fund's annual and interim accounting dates to the last day of February and 31 August respectively in order to consolidate the publication of annual and interim reports. This Interim Short Report for the BlackRock Continental European Fund covers the period from 26 July 2013 to 31 August 2013. For further information, please refer to the most recent Prospectus.

### **Summary of Performance over the Period**

The BlackRock Continental European Fund declined by 1.2%\* over the reporting period from 26 July 2013 to 31 August 2013, but outperformed its benchmark, the FTSE All-World Europe ex-UK Index, which fell by 2.1%.

Given the brevity of the reporting period, and given our wish to add greater content to fund performance, this commentary will focus on the three months to 31 August 2013, over which the Fund declined by 0.3%\* but also outperformed its benchmark, which fell by 1.3%.

### **Fund Manager's Commentary**

European equity markets experienced an increase in volatility during the three months. June's retrenchment was primarily caused by concerns over the impact of the potential 'tapering' of the support, provided to the US economy by the US Federal Reserve, but these fears soon dissipated as equities bounced back to recover their losses in July. August was a seasonally quiet month for equities as investors took profits and anticipated September's company announcements.

The Fund's outperformance over the last three months was mainly due to its positions in the financials and consumer goods sectors. Positions in banks performed well despite market weakness, especially Belgian retail bank KBC and Swiss business UBS, which continues to benefit from its long-term restructuring plan. German auto supplier Continental was our top contributor to returns and a position in media business Reed Elsevier also performed well after reporting solid results for the second quarter and better margins compared to the previous year. Detractors from relative performance included German chemical company Lanxess, which was sold by the end of the period.

Fund activity over the period included increasing our exposure to financials to a slight overweight, and reducing our exposure to oil & gas and consumer goods companies. We remain positive on the domestic economy in Europe, but have reduced our exposure to emerging markets.

Given the supportive monetary policies, recovering economic momentum and a relatively stable political environment, we expect a reassuring environment for European equities. We also believe that Europe will continue its economic recovery into 2014 notwithstanding some uncertainty ahead of the German elections in September and some political uncertainty in Italy.

### September 2013

\* Performance figures quoted are based on bid-to-bid dealing prices (the price at which units are sold) and not the same as the net asset value reported in the financial statements which is at close of business. Performance is calculated net of fees and reported for the Fund's class A Accumulation Units.

Income

Any income available is distributed annually on 30 April.

# Performance Record

## Capital (Unit Prices)

	A Income Units		A Accumulation Units		D Income Units#		D Accumulation Units†	
Calendar Year	Highest Offer Price p	Lowest Bid Price p	Highest Offer Price p	Lowest Bid Price p	Highest Offer Price p	Lowest Bid Price p	Highest Offer Price p	Lowest Bid Price p
2013*	1,411	1,135	1,670	1,329	1,349	1,140	1,606	1,336
2012	1,190	911.8	1,394	1,061	1,139	1,036	1,335	1,062
2011	1,245	831.1	1,437	967.2	N/A	N/A	1,361	962.8
2010	1,162	853.1	1,342	981.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	1,044	579.2	1,201	655.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008	1,001	594.7	1,124	673.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

 $<sup>\</sup>star$  To 31 August. # D Income class commenced October 2012.  $\dagger$  D Accumulation class commenced June 2011.

## Income (Net Distributions/Net Accumulations)

Calendar Year	A Income Units Per Unit p	A Accumulation Units Per Unit p	D Income Units# Per Unit P	D Accumulation Units† Per Unit p
2013*	14.6021	17.1229	23.6547	27.5393
2012	6.0385	7.0325	N/A	15.3680
2011	8.8745	10.2172	N/A	2.3786
2010	3.8402	4.4159	N/A	N/A
2009	11.9413	13.5177	N/A	N/A
2008	6.1538	6.9149	N/A	N/A

 $<sup>\</sup>hbox{$^*$ To 31 October. \# D Income class commenced October 2012. \dagger D Accumulation class commenced June 2011.}$ 

## **Unit Price Summary**

	Unit Price as at 31 August 2013	Unit Price as at 25 July 2013
A Income Units	1,275p	1,308p
A Accumulation Units	1,509p	1,549p
D Income Units	1,278p	1,311p
D Accumulation Units	1,524p	1,564p

# **Fund Information**

### **Summary of Investment Objective and Policy**

The BlackRock Continental European Fund (the "Fund") aims to achieve long-term capital growth for investors. The Fund invests primarily in the shares of companies incorporated or listed in Europe excluding the UK. Typically these will be larger companies. The Fund may also invest in collective investment schemes.

#### **Risk Profile**

The Fund is exposed to movements in European stock markets and currency fluctuations which may cause the value of the Fund to fall or rise.

#### **Fund Facts**

Fund Manager	Vincent Devlin
Establishment Date	8 November 1983
Benchmark	FTSE All-World Europe ex-UK Index
Assets Under Management	£477,430,333
Income Allocation Date	30 April
Accounting Dates	31 August & last day of February

### **Ongoing Charges**

The ongoing charges figures are based on expenses for the relevant period. These figures may vary from year to year.

Unit Class	26.7.2013 to 31.8.2013 <sup>†</sup>	26.7.2012 to 25.7.2013
AIncome	1.67%	1.67%
A Accumulation	1.67%	1.67%
D Income	0.92%	0.92%#
D Accumulation	0.92%	0.92%

<sup>†</sup> Ongoing charges figures are based on annualised expenses for the period ended 31 August 2013. # D Income class commenced October 2012. Ongoing charges figure is based on annualised expenses for the period ended 25 July 2013.

#### Risk and Reward Profile

	Lower risk Typically lower rewards				Higher risk Typically higher rewards		
A Income	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A Accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D Income	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D Accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The risk indicator was calculated incorporating historical or simulated historical data and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of each unit class. The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may change over time. The lowest category does not mean risk free. For more information on this, please see the Fund's Key Investor Information Documents (KIIDs), which are available at www.blackrock.com.

# Portfolio Information

# Five Largest Investments at 31 August 2013

	% of Fund Value
Roche	6.16
Institutional Cash Series plc – Sterling Liquidity Fund	4.90
Anheuser-Busch InBev	3.73
Sanofi	3.49
Bayer	3.47

## Five Largest Investments at 25 July 2013

	% of Fund Value
Roche	6.27
Sanofi	3.85
Compagnie Financiere Richemont	3.72
Anheuser-Busch InBev	3.57
Continental	3.51

# Geographical Spread of Investments – 31 August 2013



## Geographical Spread of Investments - 25 July 2013



All financial investments involve an element of risk. Therefore, the value of your investment and the income from it will vary and your initial investment amount cannot be guaranteed. Changes in exchange rates may cause the value of an investment to fluctuate. For up-to-date prices and performance, please visit our website **blackrock.co.uk**.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product.

### Report and Accounts

This report is to inform unitholders on the activities of the Fund during the reporting period, and the results of those activities at the end of the reporting period. For more information please contact the Manager. Copies of the Full Reports are available free of charge upon request from the BlackRock Investor Services Team on **0800 44 55 22**.

You can obtain further information on this Fund by contacting your Financial Adviser. Alternatively, for more details on this and other BlackRock® Funds, including up to date prices and performance, please contact BlackRock Investor Services on 0800 44 55 22 or visit blackrock.co.uk. For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded. This Report relates to the packaged products of, and is issued by, the Manager and Registrar: BlackRock Fund Managers Limited, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Registered in England No. 1102517. Trustee: BNY Mellon Trust & Depositary (UK) Limited, 160 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4LA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Auditor: Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF.

For more information 0800 44 55 22 blackrock.co.uk

