


# Allianz Continental European Fund Class A Shares Acc

GB0031382988

**Morningstar Analyst Rating**  
 2 Nov 2016  
 23:00, UTC-0500

**Morningstar Category**  
 Europe ex-UK Large-Cap Equity

**Category Index**  
 MSCI Europe Ex UK NR EUR

**Total Assets**  
 117.68  
 Mil GBP

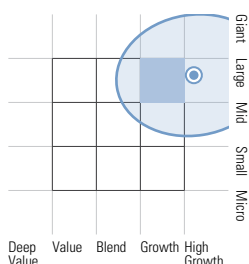
**Current Yield %**  
 0.21

**Inception Date**  
 21/02/73

**Domicile/Currency**  
 GBR/GBP

**Morningstar Rating**  
 ★★★★★

## Equity Style Map

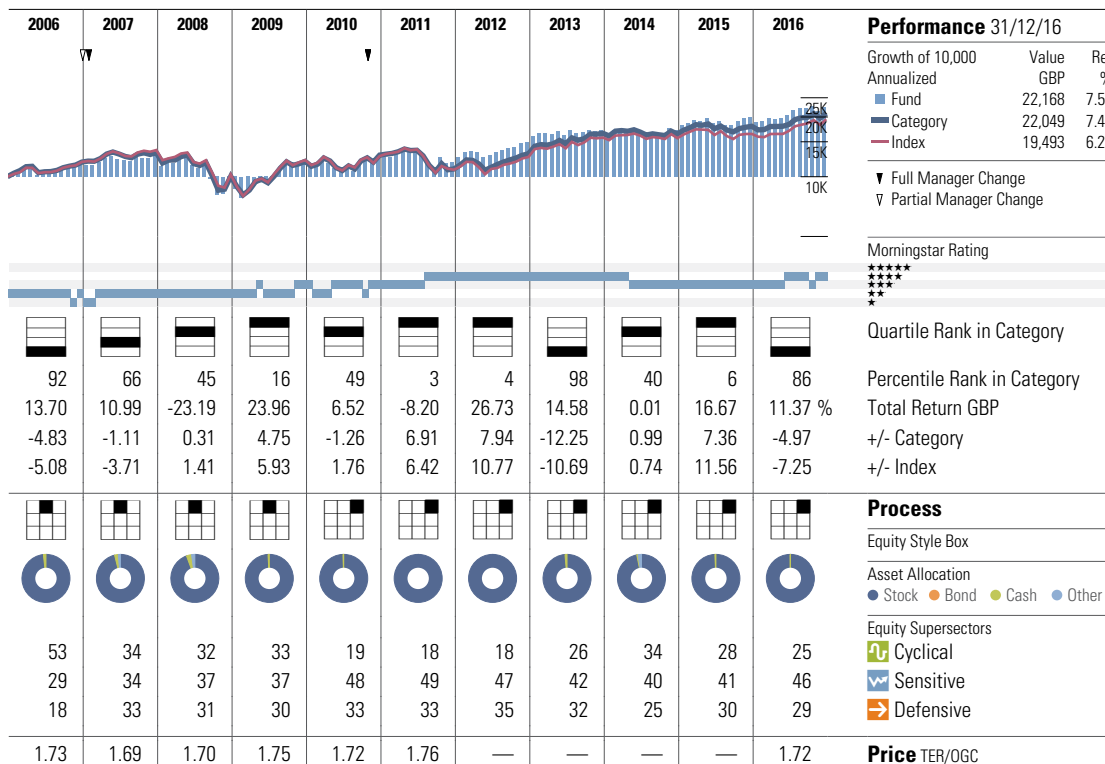


## People

Matthias Born	10/10
Thorsten Winkelmann	10/10
Total Named Managers	2

## Morningstar Pillars

Process	Positive
Performance	Positive
People	Positive
Parent	Neutral
Price	Neutral



## Analyst View

Barbara Claus, Analyst

## A compelling option for growth stocks.

The conduct of Morningstar's analysts is governed by Morningstar's Code of Ethics, Securities Trading and Disclosure Policy, and Morningstar Manager Research Integrity Policy. For information regarding conflicts of interest, please click <http://global.morningstar.com/managerdisclosures>

### Morningstar Analyst Rating

Morningstar evaluates mutual funds based on five key pillars, which its analysts believe lead to funds that are more likely to outperform over the long term on a risk-adjusted basis.

### Analyst Rating Spectrum

Gold Silver Bronze Neutral Negative

The Morningstar Analyst Rating for Funds is a forward-looking analysis of a fund. Morningstar has identified five key areas crucial to predicting the future success of a fund: People, Parent, Process, Performance, and Price. The pillars are used in determining the Morningstar Analyst Rating for a fund. Morningstar Analyst Ratings are assigned on a five-tier scale running from Gold to Negative. The top three ratings, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, all indicate that our analysts think highly of a fund; the difference between them corresponds to differences in the level of analyst conviction in a fund's ability to outperform its benchmark and peers through time, within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). Neutral represents funds in which our analysts don't have a strong positive or negative conviction over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years) and Negative represents funds that possess at least one flaw that our analysts believe is likely to significantly hamper future performance over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). Past performance of a security may or may not be sustained in future and is no indication of future performance. For detailed information about the Morningstar Analyst Rating for Funds, please visit <http://global.morningstar.com/managerdisclosures>

01 Jan, 1000 | We are sticking to our positive assessment.

In October 2010, Allianz Continental European switched to a long-established, proven, and successful growth strategy. The focus since then has been on growth stocks. The fund's regional orientation, which excludes the United Kingdom, has remained unchanged.

The fund has been managed since October 2010 by Matthias Born in close collaboration with Thorsten Winkelmann. The fund managers have a good track record in managing European equity portfolios. They are supported by four other colleagues who, together with the two managers, make up the growth team for European equities at Allianz Global Investors. The team was strengthened in 2013 by the addition of a junior portfolio manager and a product specialist.

The focus of the strategy lies in stock selection; the fund managers look for high-quality companies that benefit from strong structural growth. In its country and sector allocations, the portfolio may differ substantially from its index and the Europe ex-UK large-cap equity Morningstar Category, especially given that neither the index nor the category is focused on growth companies. The managers tend to find stocks that

they like mainly in the consumer, manufacturing, and technology sectors. They stay true to their strategy regardless of the market environment, which means that the fund can underperform when the market is moving the other way, as was the case in 2013. (However, it's worth noting that unsuccessful stock-picking also played a role in that year's underperformance.)

Even though the weak results in 2013 had a significant impact on three-year performance, since the change of strategy, the results produced by the stock selection have been impressive overall, while volatility has remained below the category average.

Winkelmann and Born are both experienced managers and are supported by a well-staffed and focused team. We confirm our Silver Morningstar Analyst Rating.

# Morningstar Global Fund Report

## Disclosure

The Morningstar Global Fund Report ("Report") is for informational purposes, intended for financial professionals and/or qualified investors ("Users") and should not be the sole piece of information used by such Users or their clients in making an investment decision.

The analysis within this report is prepared by the person(s) noted in their capacity as an analyst for Morningstar. The opinions expressed within the Report are given in good faith, are as of the date of the Report and are subject to change without notice. Neither the analyst nor Morningstar commits themselves in advance to whether and in which intervals updates to the Report are expected to be made. The written analysis and Morningstar Analyst Rating within this Report are statements of opinions; they are not statements of fact.

Morningstar believes its analysts make a reasonable effort to carefully research information contained in their analysis. The information on which the analysis is based has been obtained from sources which are believed to be reliable such as, for example, the fund's prospectus and shareholder reports (or their equivalents), fund company website, interviews with fund company personnel, and relevant and appropriate press sources as well as data, statistics and information within Morningstar's own database. Morningstar does not perform an audit or seek independent verification of any of the data, statistics, and information it receives.

Unless otherwise provided in a separate agreement, Users accessing this Report may only use it in the country in which the Morningstar distributor is based. Unless stated otherwise, the original distributor of the report is Morningstar Inc., a U.S.A. domiciled financial institution.

This Report is for informational purposes only and has no regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient. This publication is intended to provide information to assist institutional investors in making their own investment decisions, not to provide investment advice to any specific investor. Therefore, investments discussed and recommendations made herein may not be suitable for all investors; Users and User clients must exercise their own independent judgment as to the suitability of such investments and recommendations in the light of their own investment objectives, experience, taxation status and financial position.

The information, data, analyses and opinions presented herein are not warranted to be accurate, correct, complete or timely. Unless otherwise provided in a separate agreement, Morningstar makes no representation that the Report contents meet all of the presentation and/or disclosure standards applicable in the jurisdiction the recipient is located.




Except as otherwise required by law or provided for in a separate agreement, the analyst, Morningstar and its officers, directors and employees will not be responsible or liable for any trading decisions, damages or other losses resulting from, or related to, the information, data, analyses or opinions within the report. Morningstar encourages Users and User clients to read all relevant issue documents (e.g., prospectus) pertaining to the security concerned, including without limitation, information relevant to its investment objectives, risks, and costs before making an investment decision and when deemed necessary, to seek the advice of a legal, tax, and/or accounting professional.

The Report and its contents are not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would subject Morningstar or its affiliates to any registration or licensing requirements in such jurisdiction.

Where this report is made available in a language other than English and in the case of inconsistencies between the English and translated versions of the report, the English version will control and supersede any ambiguities associated with any part or section of a report that has been issued in a foreign language. Neither the analyst, Morningstar, or Morningstar affiliates guarantee the accuracy of the translations.

This Report may be distributed in certain localities, countries and/or jurisdictions ("Territories") by independent third parties or independent intermediaries ("Distributors"). Such Distributors are not acting as agents or representatives of the analyst or Morningstar. In Territories where a Distributor distributes our Report, the Distributor, and not the analyst or Morningstar, is solely responsible for complying with all applicable regulations, laws, rules, circulars, codes and guidelines established by local and/or regional regulatory bodies, including laws in connection with the distribution third-party research reports.

### Morningstar Analyst Rating

	2015	2016	2017
 Gold			
 Silver			
 Bronze			
Neutral			
Negative			
Under Review			
Not Ratable			

For a list of funds which Morningstar currently covers and provides written analysis on please contact your local Morningstar office. For information on the historical Morningstar Analyst Rating for this fund or any Fund Morningstar covers, please contact your local Morningstar office.

Please note that investments in securities (including mutual funds) are subject to market and other risks and there is no assurance or guarantee that the intended investment objectives will be achieved. Past performance of a security may or may not be sustained in future and is no indication of future performance. A security investment return and an investor's principal value will fluctuate so that, when redeemed, an investor's shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. A security's current investment performance may be lower or higher than the investment performance noted within the report. Morningstar's Risk, Return and Star Rating serves as useful data points with respect to evaluating a fund's risk profile.

A current yield percentage is not a reflection of the actual return an investor will receive in all cases as market prices for securities are constantly changing due to such things as market factors. Where a security is denominated in a

different currency than the currency of the User or User's clients, changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of or from that investment.

Indexes noted within the report are unmanaged, their returns do not include payment of any sales charges or fees an investor would pay to purchase securities, and cannot be invested in directly.

In certain jurisdictions, the Report contents, except for the Morningstar Analyst Rating and key analysis/opinions, may be shared with the fund company prior to publication. In the unlikely event that Morningstar would change their analysis/opinions and/or the Morningstar Analyst Rating based on feedback as result of such review, the Report would disclose such a fact.

### Conflicts of Interest:

- Analysts may own (actual or beneficial) interests in the financial products that are the subject of the Report. No material interests are held by Morningstar, the analyst or their immediate family in the financial products that are the subject of the Report.\*
- Analysts' compensation is derived from Morningstar's overall earnings and consists of salary, bonus and in some cases restricted stock. Analysts' receive no compensation or material benefits from product issuers or third parties in connection with the Report.#
- Morningstar does not receive commissions for providing research and does not charge financial product issuers to be rated.
- Analysts may not pursue business and employment opportunities outside Morningstar within the investment industry (including but not limited to, working as a financial planner, an investment adviser or investment adviser representative, a broker-dealer or broker-dealer agent, a financial writer, reporter, or analyst).
- Morningstar may provide the product issuer or its related entities with services or products for a fee and on an arms' length basis including software products and licenses, research and consulting services, data services, licenses to republish our ratings and research in their promotional material, event sponsorship and website advertising.
- Morningstar affiliates (i.e., its investment management group) may have arrangements with a fund company's affiliate to provide investment consulting advice some of which an analyst may issue an investment research reports on one or more of the fund company's funds. However, analysts do not have authority over Morningstar's investment management group's business arrangements nor allow employees from the investment management group to participate or influence the analysis or opinion prepared by them.
- Morningstar, Inc. is a publically traded company (Ticker Symbol: MORN) and thus a fund which is the subject of this Report may own more than 5% of Morningstar, Inc.'s total outstanding shares. Please access Morningstar, Inc.'s proxy statement, "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management" section <http://investorrelations.morningstar.com/sec.cfm?doctype=Proxy&year=8&x=12>. A fund's holding of Morningstar stock has no bearing on and is not a requirement for funds Morningstar determines to cover.

Analysts do not have any other material conflicts of interest at the time of publication. Users wishing to obtain further information should contact their local Morningstar office or refer to <https://corporate.morningstar.com/us/asp/subject.aspx?xmlfile=540.xml>

### The Morningstar Analyst Rating™ for Funds

The Morningstar Analyst Rating™ for Funds is a forward-looking analysis of a fund. The Analyst Rating does not express a view on a given asset class or peer group; rather, it seeks to evaluate each fund within the context of its objective, an appropriate benchmark, and peer group.

The date shown next to the Morningstar Analyst Rating is the date on which Morningstar Manager Research Analyst assigned or reaffirmed the current rating for the fund based on the analyst's latest review and research report for the fund.

### The Five (5) Pillars

Morningstar has identified five key areas that we believe are crucial to predicting the future success of funds: People, Parent, Process, Performance, and Price. Each pillar is evaluated when assessing a fund as well as the interaction between the pillars, which we believe is crucial to understanding a fund's overall merit.

#### People

The overall quality of a fund's investment team is a significant key to its ability to deliver superior performance relative to its benchmark and/or peers. Evaluating a fund's investment team requires that analysts assess several relevant items including how key decisions are made.

#### Parent

We believe the parent organization is of utmost importance in evaluating funds. The fund's management set the tone for key elements of our evaluation, including capacity management, risk management, recruitment and retention of talent, and incentive pay. Beyond these operational areas, we prefer firms that have a culture of stewardship and put investors first to those that are too heavily weighted to salesmanship.

#### Process

We look for funds with a performance objective and investment process (for both security selection and portfolio construction) that is sensible, clearly defined, and repeatable. In addition, the portfolio should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the investment process and performance objective.

#### Performance

We do not believe past performance is necessarily predictive of future results, and this factor accordingly receives a relatively small weighting in our evaluation process. In particular, we strive not to anchor on short-term performance. However, we do believe that the evaluation of long-term return and risk patterns is vital to determining if a fund is delivering to our expectations.

#### Price

To reflect actual investor experience, price is evaluated within the context of the relevant market or cross-border region—for example, the United States, Australia, Canada, or Europe. In recognition of differences in scale and distribution costs in various markets, the level at which a fund is penalised for high fees or rewarded for low fees can vary with region. In Europe, for example, funds are penalised if they land in the most expensive quintile of their Morningstar category and are rewarded if they land in the cheapest quintile. The assessment is made using annual expense ratios, but in the case of funds with performance fees, expenses are evaluated excluding any performance fees and then the structure of the performance fee is evaluated separately.

**Morningstar Analyst Ratings**

Morningstar Analyst Ratings are assigned on a five-tier scale running from Gold to Negative. The top three ratings, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, all indicate that our analysts think highly of a fund; the difference between them corresponds to differences in the level of analyst conviction in a fund's ability to outperform its benchmark and peers through time, within the context of the level of risk taken.

**Gold**

Represents funds that our analyst has the highest-conviction in for that given investment mandate. By giving a fund a Gold rating, we are expressing an expectation that it will outperform its relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). To earn a Gold rating, a fund must distinguish itself across the five pillars that are the basis for our analysis.

**Silver**

Represents funds our analyst has high-conviction in, but not in all of the five pillars. With those fundamental strengths, we expect these funds will outperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years).

**Bronze**

Represents funds that have advantages that clearly outweigh any disadvantages across the pillars, giving analyst the conviction to award them a positive rating. We expect these funds to beat their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over a full market cycle (or at least five years).

**Neutral**

Represents funds in which our analysts don't have a strong positive or negative conviction. In our judgment, these funds are not likely to deliver standout returns, but they aren't likely to seriously underperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group either.

**Negative**

Represents funds that possess at least one flaw that our analysts believe is likely to significantly hamper future performance, such as high fees or an unstable management team. Because of these faults, we believe these funds are inferior to most competitors and will likely underperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group, within the context of the level of risk taken, over a full market cycle.

Morningstar may also use two other designations in place of a rating:

**Under Review**

This designation means that a change that occurred with the fund or at the fund company requires further review to determine the impact on the rating.

**Not Ratable**

This designation is used only where we are providing a report on a new strategy or on a strategy where there are no relevant comparators, but where investors require information as to suitability.

For more information about our Analyst Rating methodology please go to

<http://corporate1.morningstar.com/ResearchLibrary/>

**Morningstar Star Rating**

The Morningstar Star Rating is a proprietary data point that is quantitatively driven. Funds are rated from one to five stars based on how well the fund performed (after adjusting for risk and accounting for sales charges) in comparison to similar funds. Within each Morningstar Category, the top 10% of funds receive five-stars and the bottom 10% receives one-star. Funds are rated for up to three time periods—three-, five-, and ten-years—and these ratings are combined to produce an overall star rating, which is noted within the Report. Funds with less than three years of history are not rated. Morningstar Star Ratings are based entirely on a mathematical evaluation of past performance. Morningstar Star Ratings are in no way to be considered a buy or sell signal nor should be viewed as a statement of fact.

**For Recipients in Australia:** This Report has been issued and distributed in Australia by Morningstar Australasia Pty Ltd (ABN: 95 090 665 544; ASFL: 240892). Morningstar Australasia Pty Ltd is the provider of the general advice ('the Service') and takes responsibility for the production of this report. The Service is provided through the research of investment products. To the extent the Report contains general advice it has been prepared without reference to an investor's objectives, financial situation or needs. Investors should consider the advice in light of these matters and, if applicable, the relevant Product Disclosure Statement before making any decision to invest. Refer to our Financial Services Guide (FSG) for more information at [www.morningstar.com.au/fsg.pdf](http://www.morningstar.com.au/fsg.pdf).

**For Recipients in Hong Kong:** The Report is distributed by Morningstar Investment Management Asia Limited, which is regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission to provide services to professional investors only. Neither Morningstar Investment Management Asia Limited, nor its representatives, are acting or will be deemed to be acting as an investment advisor to any recipients of this information unless expressly agreed to by Morningstar Investment Management Asia Limited. For enquiries regarding this research, please contact a Morningstar Investment Management Asia Limited Licensed Representative at <http://global.morningstar.com/equitydisclosures>.

**For Recipients in India:** This Investment Research is issued by Morningstar Investment Adviser India Private Limited. Morningstar Investment Adviser India Private Limited is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Registration number INA000001357) and provides investment advice and research. Morningstar Investment Adviser India Private Limited has not been the subject of any disciplinary action by SEBI or any other legal/regulatory body. Morningstar Investment Adviser India Private Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Morningstar Investment Management LLC. In India, Morningstar Investment Adviser India Private Limited has one associate, Morningstar India Private Limited, which provides data related services, financial data analysis and software development.

The Research Analyst has not served as an officer, director or employee of the fund company within the last 12 months, nor has it or its associates engaged in market making activity for the fund company.

\*The Conflicts of Interest disclosure above also applies to relatives and associates of Manager Research Analysts in India

#The Conflicts of Interest disclosure above also applies to associates of Manager Research Analysts in India. The terms and conditions on which Morningstar Investment Adviser India Private Limited offers Investment Research to clients, varies from client to client, and are detailed in the respective client agreement.

**For recipients in Japan:** The Report is distributed by Ibbotson Associates Japan, Inc., which is regulated by Financial Services Agency. Neither Ibbotson Associates Japan, Inc., nor its representatives, are acting or will be deemed to be acting as an investment advisor to any recipients of this information.

**For recipients in Singapore:** For Institutional Investor audiences only. Recipients of this report should contact their financial adviser in Singapore in relation to this report. Morningstar, Inc., and its affiliates, relies on certain

exemptions (Financial Advisers Regulations, Section 32B and 32C) to provide its investment research to recipients in Singapore.