Schroders

Marketing material
for professional clients only

Schroder ISF* Global Credit Income

Fund Managers: Julien Houdain & Martin Coucke | Fund update: January 2025

Market overview

- In the US, despite a high volume of new issuance, credit spreads in the investment grade market, as measured over government bonds, remained broadly unchanged in January. In contrast, European investment grade credit outperformed with spreads tightening further. A combination of low issuance volumes and strong inflows into the European investment grade market, with institutional investors particularly active around the 10-year part of the curve, pulled yields lower. High yield markets gained ground, particularly in the US, where robust investor demand was driven by a healthy economy, strong corporate earnings, and attractive yields.
- January was a month of contrasting trends for government bond markets. After a weak start, the latter part saw a strong rebound, largely due to positive news on inflation. One of the key market themes in January focused on President Trump's inauguration and its potential implications for policy, particularly regarding anticipated changes to tariffs and their impact on both the US and global markets. In terms of macro news, while December's US labour market report was strong, the Treasury bond market was placated by further signs of disinflation. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) kept interest rates unchanged following 100bps worth of rate cuts made in the prior three meetings. However, the market reaction to the news was limited.
- As expected, the European Central Bank (ECB) cut interest rates by a further 25bps to 2.75% in January. ECB president Lagarde issued a cautious assessment of the economic outlook, highlighting the risk of global trade tariffs and uncertainty as to whether the impact would be inflationary or deflationary. The latest consumer price indices for December revealed that inflation remains above the ECB's 2% target, with persistent inflationary pressures in the services sector. Nevertheless, the ECB expects inflation to return to its target over the course of this year. With investors already discounting the most recent ECB interest rate cut, government bond yields in most European markets were broadly unchanged. However, the benchmark 10-year German bund yield ended the month higher at 2.46%, having retreated from a six-month high in mid-January as weaker economic indicators strengthened the case for further interest rate cuts.
- The UK faced its own challenges as concerns over the fiscal deficit became more pronounced. Signs of slower economic growth heightened worries about the public finances, resulting in a sharp rise in gilt yields. However, as the market shifted its focus back on inflation, with December's core CPI survey below expectations, yields fell back at the month end.

Drivers of fund performance

- The Fund posted a positive total return and outperformed its reference index during January.
- Credit selection was additive, particularly amongst subordinated financials and banks, as well as corporate hybrids where further compression in spreads had a positive impact.
- Exposure to US MBS (mortgage-backed securities) was additive over the month.
- Tactical curve steepening trades, in the US and Canada, also had a positive impact on returns.

Portfolio activity

- Overall portfolio duration remained unchanged, marginally short relative to the Fund's reference index. However, we shifted an element of UK exposure into Germany. Our view is that inflationary trends are on a diverging path, with the risk that UK inflation will remain sticky due to the impact of forthcoming tax rises, notably employers' national insurance contributions. In contrast, in the Eurozone inflation is more likely to move closer to its 2% target over the course of this year.
- Consistent with our broad stance on duration, we prefer short-dated credit as valuations on longer-dated securities, particularly in the US investment grade market, offer little upside at current levels.
- In the new issue market, we looked to identify credits offering good carry to optimise income. In the energy sector, we acquired a holding in a joint

*Schroder International Selection Fund is referred to as Schroder ISF throughout this document.

venture between two major oil and gas producers in the UK and Europe, focused on western Africa.

– Elsewhere in the primary market, we added a holding in a European business services group. The issue was priced on an attractive credit spread, partially a reflection of the challenges presented by the business from the growth of AI, however we consider there is considerable potential for cost efficiencies and the bonds have since rallied in the secondary market.
– We also participated in a new issue of secured bonds, in both euros and US dollars, from a REIT focused on the US healthcare sector. This issue was trading well below par, with the company's finances now stabilising after a period where revenues had been impacted by tenancy-related issues.
– Amongst financials, we added a subordinated bond holding in a leading Canadian bank, priced at an attractive yield premium over its US peers.
– Disposals were focused on reducing exposure to the European real estate sector, which has rallied over the last three years with spreads tightening substantially.
– In the European logistics sector, we took profits on our holding in a leading warehouse operator.
– As spreads have also narrowed significantly amongst European financials, we sold down holdings in several banks.

Outlook/Positioning

– There is a high degree of uncertainty on the outlook for 2025. The key policies of the incoming Trump administration. including stricter immigration controls, tax cuts, fewer regulations on business, and trade tariffs, suggest a growing inflationary risk. Combined these factors may cause the Fed to cease easing monetary policy earlier than expected. Although it is not our base case scenario, we see growing risks of a 'no-landing', in which inflation remains sticky and interest rates may be required to be kept higher for longer.
– Elsewhere, business sentiment has been souring on the other side of the Atlantic, as the Eurozone contends with a combination of cyclical and structural challenges. We have less confidence in seeing a rebound here, given that the ominous threat of the US imposing tariffs on imports will weigh on major capital expenditure decisions and could therefore limit any improvements in the European manufacturing sector in coming months. The service sector appears to be losing momentum too: this will help focus the ECB as they consider how the path of interest rates should develop, following another 25bp cut in January.
– Looking at the outlook for credit markets, spreads have now tightened to the extent that many sectors of the market, particularly US investment grade and high yield corporate bonds, are trading at narrower spreads than at any time since the pandemic. Nevertheless, we expect credit fundamentals to remain robust in 2025 and combined with elevated all-in yields and steeper yield curves, this should continue to attract inflows into credit.
– However, there is limited room for further spread compression, and we are therefore more cautious on the outlook for longer-dated issues and cyclical sectors. We are focusing on shorter-dated corporate bonds providing an attractive yield with limited spread duration risk, as opposed to adopting a sector-oriented approach.
– We continue to identify opportunities in securitised assets such as US agency MBS, which provide an attractive income, in comparison with the broader US investment grade market with less idiosyncratic credit risk with less idiosyncratic credit risk, Demand for MBS is also likely to increase given the prospect of a less stringent regulatory environment in the US under the Trump administration, allowing banks to purchase these securities in their portfolios.
– Lastly, we also favour retaining a degree of liquidity. With valuations in most credit sectors at the tighter end of history and policy uncertainty quite high, it is very likely that periods of market volatility will provide the right entry points for establishing new holdings.

Past performance does not predict future returns. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Calendar year performance (%)*

Year	A DisMF	I DisMF	BM1	BM2	BM3	BM4
2024	5.7	7.6	4.2	1.1	9.2	5.7
2023	9.5	11.0	9.7	9.6	14.0	10.5
2022	-12.7	-11.5	-14.1	-14.1	-12.7	-16.5
2021	0.9	2.3	-0.2	-2.9	1.0	-1.5
2020	6.6	8.0	7.9	10.4	7.0	5.9
2019	11.3	12.9	13.2	11.5	12.6	14.4
2018	-1.6	-0.3	-1.4	-3.6	-4.1	-4.6
2017	7.8	9.3	6.7	9.1	10.4	9.3
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Schroders, NAV to NAV (bid to bid), net of fees (where applicable), USD, as at 31/12/2024. Comparator benchmarks: 1. Bloomberg (Bbg) Multiverse ex Treasury A+ to B- USD Hedged, 2. Bbg Global Aggregate Corp TR, 3. Bbg Global **High Yield TR USD), 4. JP Morgan EMBI Global TR. Comparator** benchmarks included for performance comparison purposes and do not have any bearing on how the manager invests the fund's assets.

Risk considerations

- **ABS and MBS risk**: The fund may invest in mortgage or asset-backed securities. The underlying borrowers of these securities may not be able to pay back the full amount that they owe, which may result in losses to the fund.
- **Capital risk / distribution policy**: As the fund intends to pay dividends regardless of its performance, a dividend may represent a return of part of the amount you invested.
- **Contingent convertible bonds**: The fund may invest in contingent convertible bonds. A reduction in the financial strength of the issuer of such bonds may result in losses to the fund.
- **Counterparty risk**: The fund may have contractual agreements with counterparties. If a counterparty is unable to fulfil their obligations, the sum that they owe to the fund may be lost in part or in whole.
- **Credit risk**: A decline in the financial health of an issuer could cause the value of its bonds to fall or become worthless.
- **Currency risk**: The fund may lose value as a result of movements in foreign exchange rates.
- **Currency risk / hedged shareclass**: The hedging of the share class may not be fully effective and residual currency exposure may remain. The cost associated with hedging may impact performance and potential gains may be more limited than for unhedged share classes.
- **Derivatives risk**: Derivatives may be used to manage the portfolio efficiently. The fund may also materially invest in derivatives including using short selling and leverage techniques with the aim of making a return. A derivative may not perform as expected, may create losses greater than the cost of the derivative and may result in losses to the fund.
- **Emerging markets & frontier risk**: Emerging markets, and especially frontier markets, generally carry greater political, legal, counterparty, operational and liquidity risk than developed markets.
- **High yield bond risk**: High yield bonds (normally lower rated or unrated) generally carry greater market, credit and liquidity risk.
- **IBOR risk**: The transition of the financial markets away from the use of interbank offered rates (IBORs) to alternative reference rates may impact the valuation of certain holdings and disrupt liquidity in certain instruments. This may impact the investment performance of the fund.
- **Interest rate risk**: The fund may lose value as a direct result of interest rate changes.
- **Liquidity risk**: In difficult market conditions, the fund may not be able to sell a security for full value or at all. This could affect performance and could cause the fund to defer or suspend redemptions of its shares.
- **Market risk**: The value of investments can go up and down and an investor may not get back the amount initially invested.
- **Operational risk**: Operational processes, including those related to the safekeeping of assets, may fail. This may result in losses to the fund.
- **Performance risk**: Investment objectives express an intended result but there is no guarantee that such a result will be achieved. Depending on market conditions and the macro economic environment, investment objectives may become more difficult to achieve.
- **Sustainability risk**: The fund has environmental and/or social characteristics. This means it may have limited exposure to some companies, industries or sectors and may forego certain investment opportunities, or dispose of certain holdings, that do not align with its sustainability criteria chosen by the investment manager. The fund may invest in companies that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor.

Important information

Marketing material for professional clients and qualified investors only.

This document does not constitute an offer to anyone, or a solicitation by anyone, to subscribe for shares of Schroder International Selection Fund (the “Company”). Nothing in this document should be construed as advice and is therefore not a recommendation to buy or sell shares. An investment in the Company entails risks, which are fully described in the prospectus.

Subscriptions for shares of the Company can only be made on the basis of its latest Key Information Document and prospectus, together with the latest audited annual report (and subsequent unaudited semi-annual report, if published), copies of which can be obtained, free of charge, from Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A.

The Company is a Luxembourg-based Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable (SICAV) with unlimited duration which is coordinated with regard to the European regulations and meets the criteria for Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS).

This document, and the information contained herein, does not constitute, and is not intended to constitute, a public offer of securities to the retail investors in the United Arab Emirates (“UAE”) and accordingly should not be construed as such. No regulatory authority in the UAE has any responsibility for reviewing or verifying this prospectus or any other documents in connection with the promotion of this fund. Accordingly, no regulatory authority in the UAE has approved the prospectus or any other associated documents, nor taken any steps to verify the information set out herein, and therefore no regulatory authority in the UAE has any responsibility for the same. The interests in the fund/s ("Interests") mentioned in the document may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers should conduct their own due diligence on the Interests. Anyone not understanding the contents of this document should consult an authorised financial adviser.

For Austria, these documents may be obtained in German, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders and from our Information Agent Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A., German Branch, Taunustor 1, D-60310 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

For Belgium, these documents may be obtained in French and Dutch, free of charge from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

The total net asset value is published on the website of the Belgian Asset Managers Association (BEAMA) on www.beama.be. In addition, the tariff schedules are available from distributors in Belgium. The fee on the stock exchange transactions of 1.32 % (with a maximum of € 4,000 per transaction) is payable on the purchase or conversion of capitalisation shares if they are carried out by the intervention of a professional intermediary in Belgium. Dividends paid by the Company to natural persons who are Belgian tax residents are subject to a Belgian withholding tax at a rate of 30% if they are paid by the intervention of a financial intermediary established in Belgium (this information applies to all distribution shares). If the dividends are received by such natural persons without the intervention of a financial intermediary established in Belgium, they must indicate the amount of the dividends received in their tax return and will be taxed on that amount at a rate of 30%. In the event of the redemption or sale of shares of a sub-fund investing, directly or indirectly, either (i) more than 25% of its assets in receivables with regard to shares acquired by the investor before January 1, 2018, or (ii) more than 10% of its assets in receivables with regard to the shares acquired by the investor from 1 January 2018 (provided, in each of these two cases, that certain additional conditions are met), the interest component of this redemption or sale price is subject to a 30% tax in Belgium.

For Bulgaria, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Bulgarian and the other documents in English, free of charge from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For the Czech Republic, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Czech and the other documents in English, free of charge from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Denmark, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Danish and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders and Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S. A. dansk filial, Bredgade 45C, 2nd floor, DK-1260 Copenhagen K. A decision on a possible investment should be made on the basis of personal advice.

For Finland, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Finnish, Swedish and English and the other documents in English, free of charge at the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For France, these documents may be obtained in French, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders, Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A., Paris Branch, 1, rue Euler, 75008 Paris and the Centralising agent Société Générale, 29 boulevard Haussmann, F-75009 Paris.

For Germany, these documents may be obtained in German, free of charge, at the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders and Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A., German Branch, Taunustor 1, D-60310 Frankfurt am Main.

For Greece, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Greek and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Hungary, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Hungarian and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Iceland, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Icelandic and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Ireland, these documents may be obtained in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Italy, these documents may be obtained in Italian, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders, Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A. Succursale Italiana, Via Manzoni 5, 20121 Milan and from our distributors. These documents and the list of distributors are available at www.schroders.it

For Latvia, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Latvian and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Liechtenstein, these documents may be obtained in German, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Lithuania, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Lithuanian and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Luxembourg, these documents may be obtained in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Malta, these documents may be obtained in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For the Netherlands, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Dutch and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Norway, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Norwegian and English and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Poland, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Polish and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

The company is a Luxembourg-registered undertaking for the collective investment in transferable securities and operates in Poland in accordance with the Act of 27 May 2004 on investment funds and the management of alternative investment funds (Journal of Laws of 2004 No. 146, item 1546 as amended). Depending on the applicable tax obligations, the investor may be required to pay tax directly on the income arising from investments in the units of the fund.

For Portugal, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Portuguese and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders, from the authorised placing entities and on www.schroders.pt.

For Romania, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Romanian and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Slovakia, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Slovakian and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

For Spain, these documents may be obtained in Spanish, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders, the CNMV, the distributors and on www.schroders.es.

The Company is registered in the Administrative Register of Foreign Collective Investment Institutions marketed in Spain of the National Securities Market Commission (CNMV), with the number 135. Its depository is J.P. Morgan SE and its management company is Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A.. The Company is a UCITS registered in Luxembourg.

For Sweden, the Key Information Documents may be obtained in Swedish and the other documents in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

Schroder Investment Management (Switzerland) AG is the Swiss representative («Swiss Representative») and Schroder & Co Bank AG is the paying agent in Switzerland of the Luxembourg domiciled Schroder International Selection Fund. The prospectus for Switzerland, the key information documents, the articles of association and the annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained free of charge from the Swiss Representative.

For the UK, these documents may be obtained in English, free of charge, from the following link: www.eifs.lu/schroders.

Schroders may decide to cease the distribution of any fund(s) in any EEA country at any time but we will publish our intention to do so on our website, in line with applicable regulatory requirements.

The fund has environmental and/or social characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on Sustainability-related Disclosures in the Financial Services Sector (the "SFDR"). For the UK only: This product is based overseas and is not subject to UK sustainable investment labelling and disclosure requirements.

For information on sustainability-related aspects of this fund please go to www.schroders.com

Any reference to regions/ countries/ sectors/ stocks/ securities is for illustrative purposes only and not a recommendation to buy or sell any financial instruments or adopt a specific investment strategy.

Past Performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of investments to fall as well as rise.

Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs, if any, charged when units or shares of any fund, as applicable, are issued and redeemed.

Schroders has expressed its own views and opinions in this document and these may change.

Information herein is believed to be reliable but Schroders does not warrant its completeness or accuracy.

The data contained in this document has been sourced by Schroders and should be independently verified. Third party data is owned or licenced by the data provider and may not be reproduced, extracted or used for any other purpose without the data provider's consent. Neither Schroders, nor the data provider, will have any liability in connection with the third-party data.

This document may contain "forward-looking" information, such as forecasts or projections. Please note that any such information is not a guarantee of any future performance and there is no assurance that any forecast or projection will be realised.

Schroders will be a data controller in respect of your personal data. For information on how Schroders might process your personal data, please view our Privacy Policy available at https://www.schroders.com/en/global/individual/footer/privacy-statement/ or on request should you not have access to this webpage.

A summary of investor rights may be obtained from https://www.schroders.com/en/global/individual/summary-of-investor-rights/

For your security, communications may be recorded or monitored.

Issued by Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A., 5, rue Höhenhof, L-1736 Senningerberg, Luxembourg. Registration No B 37.799.

Authorized by the Comissão do Mercado de Valores Mobiliários (CMVM) to operate in Portugal under the free provision of services regime, and with a branch in Spain, authorized and registered with the CNMV under number 20.

Distributed by Schroder Investment Management (Europe) S.A., Spanish branch, registered in the EEA investment firm register with the National Market Commission of Securities (CNMV) with the number 20.

Distributed in Switzerland by Schroder Investment Management (Switzerland) AG, Talstrasse 11, CH-8001 Zurich, Switzerland a fund management company authorised and supervised by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA, Laupenstrasse 27, CH-3003 Bern.

Distributed in the UK by Schroder Investment Management Ltd, 1 London Wall Place, London EC2Y 5AU. Registration No 1893220 England. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Distributed by Schroder Investment Management Limited (Dubai Branch), located on the First Floor, Gate Village Six, Dubai International Financial Centre, PO Box 506612, Dubai, United Arab Emirates and regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) and entered on the DFSA register under Firm Reference Number: F000513. This document is not subject to any form of regulation or approval by the DFSA.