

### **FUND FACTS**

Net Assets<sup>1</sup> £87.2m

Share Price<sup>2</sup> 615.00p

NAV per Share<sup>1</sup> 727.21p

Discount to NAV 15.43%

Dividend Yield<sup>3</sup> 3.01%

Structure
Closed Ended Investment Trust
Company

Inception Date
18 December 2002

**ISIN** GB0032273343

BEMO LN

Base Currency GBP

Benchmark<sup>4</sup> MSCI EM EMEA

Management Fee (p.a.) 0.75%

Ongoing Charges (p.a.) 1.59%

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

Matthias Siller, CFA 26 years of experience

Adnan El-Araby, CFA 14 years of experience

### **DECEMBER 2024 / FACTSHEET**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Barings Emerging EMEA Opportunities PLC is an actively managed equity strategy. The Company's investment objective is to achieve capital growth, principally through investment in emerging and frontier equity securities listed or traded on Eastern European, Middle Eastern and African (EMEA) securities markets.

### **STRATEGY**

The Company aims to harness the long-term growth and income potential of Emerging EMEA. It is managed by one of the region's most experienced and best-resourced investment teams, using fundamental, bottom-up analysis.

### **MARKET OPPORTUNITY**

- Income diversifier: the Company aims to deliver both income and long-term growth potential, accessing markets with compelling dividend prospects.
- Undiscovered growth: the broad investment focus provides exposure to a large opportunity set in high growth areas underrepresented in global portfolios.
- High conviction: concentrated exposure to 30 60 of the very best ideas we can find across the Emerging EMEA region - with a strong focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.

PERFORMANCE (%)	Ordinary Shares (Gross of Fees)	Ordinary Shares (Net of Fees)	Benchmark <sup>4</sup>
Year to Date	17.39	15.51	7.46
1 Year	17.39	15.51	7.46
3 Years	-1.89	-3.46	-3.97
5 Years	-1.05	-2.59	-3.19
10 Years	7.83	6.18	4.10
Since Inception	10.06	8.44	7.61

ROLLING 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE (%)	Ordinary Shares (Gross of Fees)	Ordinary Shares (Net of Fees)	Benchmark <sup>4</sup>
31/12/2023 - 31/12/2024	17.39	15.51	7.46
31/12/2022 - 31/12/2023	7.29	5.57	2.09
31/12/2021 - 31/12/2022	-25.01	-26.21	-19.27
31/12/2020 - 31/12/2021	16.02	14.23	19.10
31/12/2019 - 31/12/2020	-13.44	-14.69	-19.36

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS. An investment entails a risk of loss. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized.

- Net Asset Value is Shareholders' funds expressed as an amount per individual Ordinary Share. Shareholders' funds are the total value of all the Company's assets, at current market value, having deducted all liabilities and prior charges at their fair value.
- 2. Share price is the mid-market price at market close and is determined by stock market supply and demand.
- Dividend Yield is calculated using the Company's latest full year dividend expressed as a percentage of the share price.
- The benchmark is the MSCI EM EMEA Index. Prior to the 16 November 2020, the benchmark was the MSCI EM Europe 10/40 Index.

Baring Emerging Europe PLC was launched on the 18 December 2002. As of 16 November 2020, the Company changed its investment policy and objective and was renamed Barings Emerging EMEA Opportunities PLC. For further details please visit www.bemoplc.com



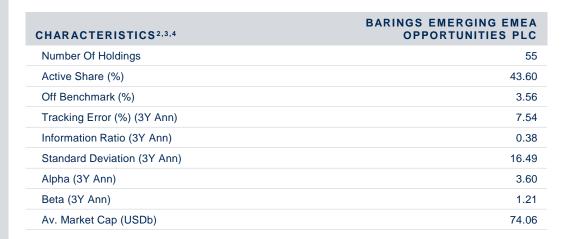
### **EQUITY PLATFORM**<sup>1</sup>

Barings manages \$421+ billion of equities, fixed income, real estate and alternative assets globally

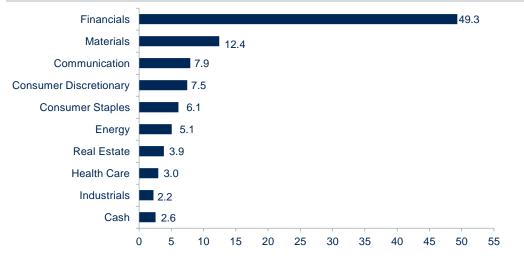
We focus on building highconviction, research-driven equity solutions for our clients. We have a long history of being early investors in new and established markets

- Global Equities
- Emerging Markets Equities
- · Small-Cap Equities

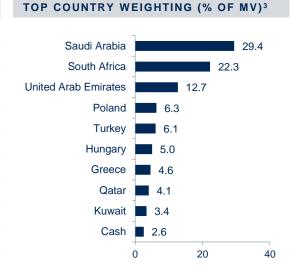
Equities investor base includes financial institutions, pensions, foundations and endowments and wholesale distributors



## TOP SECTOR WEIGHTINGS (% OF MV) $^{\rm 3}$



### TOP HOLDINGS (% OF MV)3 AL RAJHI BANK 7.39 NASPERS LTD 5.15 FIRSTRAND LTD 4.09 CAPITEC BANK HOLDINGS LTD 4.03 **QATAR NATIONAL BANK QPSC** 3.46 OTP BANK NYRT 3.09 SAUDI NATIONAL BANK/THE 3.05 NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT 2.95 SAUDI BASIC INDUSTRIES 2.83 SAUDI TELECOM CO 2.80



- 1. Barings assets as of December 31, 2024.
- 2. Risk statistics based on gross performance.
- 3. As of 31 December 2024.
- 4. Refer to glossary on our website for definitions of terms. Characteristics are subject to change.

## **Barings Emerging EMEA Opportunities PLC**



## MANAGER'S COMMENTS DECEMBER 2024

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

EMEA equities were up 0.8% in December and against this backdrop the portfolio underperformed the benchmark by 0.5%. US Dollar strength, the key financial market theme of the last quarter of 2024 continued into December, creating substantial performance headwinds for equity indices around the world.

Within the universe, the UAE was the best performing market led by Dubai real estate player, Emaar Properties, which announced a dividend policy that allows the company to double its dividend from last year. The UAE banks also lent support to overall positive sentiment as December PMI data showed further sequential improvement, reflecting continued structural reforms with record tourism numbers and continued population growth.

Greece also performed well, led by financials as investors welcomed the proactive measures taken by Greek banks to address the fiscal implications of the sector's Deferred Tax Credits (essentially capitalized tax shields).

South Africa was weak reflecting the challenges faced by the materials sector, due to anticipated slow economic growth in China as well as global growth concerns on president-elect Trump's proposed tariffs.

Relative return for the portfolio was negative. On a country basis, security selection was the primary driver of underperformance, whilst on a sector basis, sector allocation was the principal detractor.

Greek banks, Alpha (+8.1% in USD) and Piraeus (+8.9% in USD), both overweight positions, were positive contributors to relative performance. The adept management and transparent communication of Greece's economic reform program by Prime Minister Mitsotakis' administration deserve praise, especially amid escalating global uncertainties. The commitment of Greek corporations to high corporate governance standards remains impressive, as notably demonstrated by their proactive handling of Deferred Tax Credits.

Our overweight in Turkish supermarket operator BIM (+10.4% in USD) performed well as the company applied for regulatory approval for a new buyback program, prompting a positive market response. Despite below-CPI minimum wage growth eroding purchasing power, as a discounter BIM appears well placed to take market share.

In Saudi Arabia, Al Rajhi bank (+3.8% in USD) added to performance as investors remain optimistic over the company's positive endowment effect from falling rates and ensuing higher loan growth as well as the company's non-interest income drivers.

Our holdings in South African banks detracted from relative returns in the month as investors took profits after a strong share price performance since elections in May. Capitec (-8.0% in USD) and FirstRand (-5.5% in USD) sold off with the market now pricing in a "show me" story with respect to the pace of rate cuts and domestic capital expenditure, especially considering the weak Q3-24 GDP print (-0.3% q/q). Conversely, not owning Standard Bank, (-10.4% in USD), helped partially offset the negative performance.

Our underweight in Saudi utility provider, ACWA Power (+10.2% in USD), also impeded relative returns as the stock recovered from being down almost 20% in the prior month on the back of its China expansion strategy. The company plans to enter the Chinese market through a series of partnerships that will give it >1GW in solar PV and wind projects.

Our overweight positioning in South African miners Impala Platinum (-17.7% in USD) and AngloGold Ashanti (-10.9% in USD) and Polish miner, KGHM (-11.0% in USD), took away from performance, selling off with the broader sector on concerns president-elect Trump's proposed tariffs will drive lower global growth and reduce China's demand for metals. Furthermore, the anticipated stimulus package from the Chinese government could underwhelm and drive China's economic outlook lower.

### STRATEGY

We remain focused on unrecognised growth, and we continue to seek out bottom-up investment opportunities where the future earnings potential is not fully reflected in the current share price.

The EMEA region will continue to be connected to shifts in global sentiment regarding the direction of interest rates, and global growth prospects, nevertheless, we believe the portfolio has enough idiosyncratic ideas to mitigate some of the top down volatility.

## **Barings Emerging EMEA Opportunities PLC**



## MANAGER'S COMMENTS DECEMBER 2024

### OUTLOOK

The resounding victory for the Republican Party in the U.S. elections, coupled with Donald Trump's assertive tariff policies, poses significant challenges for emerging markets reliant on global investment inflows and export-driven growth. Concurrently, escalating geopolitical tensions and increased defence expenditures are likely to strain European economies, which are already coping with political instability and declining consumer confidence.

From a European perspective, nations such as Poland, Greece, and Turkey display favourable growth potential, robust public finances, and a steadfast commitment to defence expenditures and military capability. These countries often benefit from a more stable political climate and an independent monetary policy framework. In terms of Emerging Markets, we project that Emerging Europe will experience reduced impact from global trade conflicts while capitalizing on nearshoring opportunities. Furthermore, the new U.S. administration's diplomatic efforts towards Russia, aimed at addressing the conflict stemming from Russia's aggression in Ukraine, are expected to enhance the investment appeal of Emerging European equity markets and bolster the region's growth prospects.

The pace at which Turkey's rate of inflation declines will dictate the Central bank's interest rate policy which creates opportunity and risk over the outlook for the economy and Turkey's equity market.

The outlook for the GCC region continues to be clouded by the geopolitics and the lacklustre outlook in the price of crude creating uncertainty around the pace of capital investments. Our focus will continue to be on researching and investing in companies with a compelling earnings profile that have a consistent track record in creating shareholder value regardless of the macroeconomic backdrop.

Finally, South Africa risk premium could fall further if the GNU can execute on its promises of structural reform and kick start a sustainable economic recovery.

# **Barings Emerging EMEA Opportunities PLC**



### **Key Risks:**

- · Regional Funds have a narrower focus than those which invest broadly across markets and are therefore considered to be more risky.
- Emerging markets or less developed countries may face more political, economic or structural challenges than developed countries. Coupled with less developed regulation, this means your money is at greater risk
- Russia and the region pose special risks such as, economic and political unrest, lack of a transparent and reliable legal system, lower standards of
  corporate governance and an under developed process for enforcing legal ownership of investments
- Derivative instruments can make a profit or a loss and there is no guarantee that a financial derivative contract will achieve its intended outcome.

  The use of derivatives can increase the amount by which the Fund's value rises and falls and could expose the Fund to losses that are significantly greater than the cost of the derivative as a relatively small movement may have a larger impact on derivatives than the underlying assets
- Debt securities are subject to risks that the issuer will not meet its payment obligations (ie, default). Low rated (high yield) or equivalent unrated debt securities of the type in which the fund will invest generally offer a higher return than higher rated debt securities, but also are subject to greater risks that the issuer will default.
- Changes in exchange rates between the currency of the Fund and the currencies in which the assets of the Fund are valued can have the effect of increasing or decreasing the value of the Fund and any income generated

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### EMEA based enquiries: emea.info@barings.com

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