thesharecentre:

Press release

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Fund in Focus: BlackRock European Dynamics

Sheridan Admans, investment manager at The Share Centre, outlines how investors looking to achieve long-term growth through diversified exposure to European markets might want to consider the BlackRock European Dynamic Fund.

"Investing in companies in the European Union should provide diversification that an investment portfolio based solely in UK companies may not provide, for example Denmark is a world leader in alternative energy solutions and Germany has world class engineering companies and car manufacturers.

"However markets remain fractious over continued European sovereign debt concerns and the strength of some German and Spanish banks. The German banks are to undergo stress testing which could result in further market volatility over the summer. However, it would seem that the German's bank rescue fund could potentially assist as it has approximately £300 billion in credit guarantees to call upon if necessary.

"Concerns over debt have led the Euro lower and a further upset could apply further pressure to the currency. So for the brave, now might be a good time to dip your toe into European investments such as the BlackRock European Dynamic fund. As Warren Buffet says, "We simply attempt to be fearful when others are greedy and to be greedy only when others are fearful".

"The fund has a mandate allowing it to invest across the all-cap market, with the portfolio being concentrated and comprising around 35-65 companies. The fund manager, Alister Hibbert, and his team have an excellent track record of finding value in European assets despite market conditions. A weaker currency could also have benefits for European companies as exports should start to seem more attractive.

"In terms of performance the fund has outperformed its sector across all time periods not only in times of positive market sentiment but also when conditions are tough and markets are in decline.

The BlackRock European Dynamic fund has an annual charge of 5% and an initial charge of 1.5%. The minimum initial investment is £500 and the minimum additional investment is £100.

As the fund features in The Share Centre's Platinum 120 range, customers of the retail stockbroker wishing to invest in the BlackRock European Dynamic fund will not have to pay the initial charge or purchase dealing commission. Customers can also invest in the fund from as little as £10.

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Note to editors:

About The Share Centre's Platinum 120 range:

The Share Centre launched its Platinum 120 funds range in June 2009 in order to help investors identify the funds with the best long-term prospects and strong management. Customers who invest in a Platinum 120 fund will benefit from no purchase commission on all funds and no initial charge on almost 90%. Please visit www.share.com/p120 to view the full Platinum 120 range. Please be aware that this may require registration.

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Risk Warnings:

Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPPs are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPPs are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on www.share.com. Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our Investment Research Policy

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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