

# A summer of calm on the surface and turbulent currents beneath

US equities reached new record highs over the summer, driven by momentum in the artificial intelligence sector, a strong US earnings season and expectations of rate cuts by the Fed. Looking ahead, we expect US economic activity to weaken, and we also see some pressure on the Fed. Overall, this calls for a mildly positive stance on risk assets, but with a well-diversified\* approach.


**Amundi Investment Institute**

Marketing Communication



## Focus on monetary and fiscal policies

In our view high government spending and debt in the developed world, alongside monetary easing by central banks are opening opportunities across yield curves. For instance, in the US and Europe, we believe this is a backdrop for curve steepening i.e. an increase in the gap between yields on long and short-maturity bonds.



## High concentration in US equities

A select number of sectors are driving returns in the main markets in the US where equity prices are high. We believe there are opportunities in other regions such as the UK, Europe and Japan, and on the mid and small cap segments in Europe.



## Corporate earnings in EM show resilience

We believe the EM earnings environment is positive and growth momentum is also reasonable. We are constructive on equities in India, emerging EMEA and LatAm. Additionally, in our view, declining rates in the US are positive for EM bonds in general. We like countries such as Brazil, Peru, and Hungary.



## Prioritise fundamentals to gain from corporate credit

In our view, valuations in some segments of the markets are high. We believe investors should prioritise corporate fundamentals in times of uncertainty on international trade. We see strength in select areas of EU high-grade credit, such as banking and in medium-term maturity instruments.



# Mildly-positive on risk assets

In an environment of risks around US economic growth, tariffs and corporate margins, we prefer staying away from expensive segments. Instead, through a well-balanced stance, there is a need to stay slightly positive on risk, and explore areas such as EM and European equities that are attractively-priced.



## Glossary

1. **Bond:** is a fixed-income investment that represents a loan made by an investor to a borrower, usually corporate or governmental
2. **Yield curve steepening:** increase in the difference of yields between long term and short term bonds.
3. **Equity:** is the remaining value of an asset or investment after considering or paying any debt owed; the term is also used to refer to capital used for funding or a brand's value
4. **EU:** European Union
5. **Credit:** is a contractual agreement in which a borrower receives a sum of money or something else of value and commits to repaying the lender later, typically with interest
6. **EM:** Emerging Market

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

\*Diversification does not guarantee a profit nor protect against a loss.

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