## **IXIOS SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

Monthly report - 28/02/2025

### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

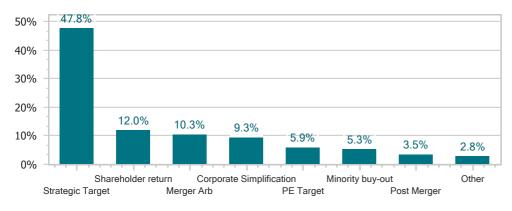
Ixios Special Situations Fund is an open-end fund registered in France. The Fund seeks capital appreciation over the medium to long-term. The Fund invest in equity securities of companies involved in, or are undergoing event driven situations, or corporate events. The Fund's objective is to seek, over the recommended investment period, an annualised return that exceeds 8% (for class I).

### HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE



Past performance is not an indication of future performance. It may vary over time. Reported performance is net of fees.

### Type of Event - Breakdown



### MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTARY (1/2)

RISK PROFILE SRI	
Lower Risk	Higher Risk
Potentially	Potentially
Jower return 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	higher return

IXIOS

#### **SUB-FUND FACTS**

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Fund inception date: 15/10/2020 Recommended investment: > 5 years Fund domicile: France Management Company: Ixios AM Custodian: Société Générale SFDR Status: Article 8

### SHARE-CLASSES FACTS

ISIN Codes & Bloomberg Tickers : • I Class: FR0013514296 / IXRECIE FP • P Class: FR0013514304 / IXRECPE FP Minimum Subscription : • I Class: 100,000 EUR • P Class: 1 share Fixed Management Fees : • I Class: 1.35% • P Class: 2% Performance Fees: 15% the bet performance over benchmark with 5 years underperformance offset Performance Benchmark: • I Class: 8.00% net / year • P Class: 7.35% net / year

### MAIN RISKS

The main risks of the UCITS are: Discretionary management risk; Equity risk; Liquidity risk; Credit risk; Exchange rate risk; For more information on the risks, please refer to the prospectus of the UCITS.

The Special Situation Fund posted a return of -3.43% in February. Since inception on October 15, 2020, the fund has generated a total return of 34.4%, equating to an annualized return of 7%. The main source of underperformance this month was the energy sector.

The Trump administration's policies on tariffs, inflation, interest rates, and regulatory measures have created an environment of record political uncertainty, making it increasingly difficult for top management teams to successfully close deals. Trade tensions and protectionist policies have led to market volatility, while fluctuating interest rates and regulatory shifts have added further complexity to corporate decision-making and strategic transactions. Fears of a slowdown in global trade and Trump's call for lower energy costs (followed by the recent OPEC decision) have put a lot of pressure on energy stocks, even though their valuations were already depressed. However, we are now witnessing mergers (Veren, which we own, with Whitecap), rumors of consolidation (John Wood) and stakes building by insiders, long term investors and competitors (for example in drilling and shipping sectors).

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### MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTARY (2/2)

Today, the valuation of oil tanker stocks is a good illustration of the level of market distrust and opportunities in the energy complex. Oil tanker stocks are worth about half the current value of the ships they hold because investors fear a collapse in shipping rates with the return of peace in the Middle East (i.e. the reopening of the Red Sea) and to a lesser extent in Ukraine. On the contrary, they do not value any scenario of Trump's maximum pressure strategy imposing sanctions on Iranian cargoes or the return of full production by OPEC countries. However, for executives in the oil shipping sector and patient investors, the big picture is that there will be very few new ships on the market in the coming years while many ships are now old (>20 years) and are expected to be scrapped, especially with the new IMO regulations coming. In the long term, we will run out of tankers to transport oil, even if the demand for oil may grow less quickly but certainly not decrease (except for a global recession). We own some of these companies. For example, **Ardmore Shipping**, which owns 10-year-old tankers, has no debt, is worth 55% of its current asset value, pays a 10% dividend yield, is down 20% year-to-date and 38% over one year. Teekay Tankers recently bought 7% of Ardmore Shipping and its competitor, Scorpio Tankers, bought 7% of DHT Holdings. Oil shipping executives have understood this and are starting to buy shares in their competitors that own younger ships instead of ordering new tankers. We can expect a series of takeovers in this sector, similar to what occurred in 2022-2023 that we owned within the fund.

We initiate a position in **Imerys** after the rumors about a potential buyout of minority shareholders by GBL, the largest shareholder of Imerys with a 54.6% stake, which could lead to a delisting of the company. According to Bloomberg, GBL has reportedly entered preliminary discussions with private equity firms regarding this move. In response, GBL issued a statement saying that evaluating strategic opportunities is part of its normal business activities but did not specifically comment on these speculations. A deal would make total sense and these days Holding vehicles are back on large transaction track (like Wendel), taking advantage of lower valuation. Imerys has a particularly attractive valuation at < 5x 2025e EBITDA, ie. a discount of ~25% to the historical average.

Prosus made an offer to buy **Just Eat** to create a European food delivery champion. Prosus' move comes nearly five years after it lost a takeover battle for Just Eat to in a 5-billion-pound showdown against Takeaway.com. It is now poised to buy the merged entity at a significantly lower price than its original 2019 offer. We could see a potential counteroffer/ Just Eat has agreed not to solicit other buyers, while Prosus holds matching rights if a third party offers 10% above its bid. Despite a headline premium, Just Eat's stock remains at historic lows.

Despite challenges coming from the Trump administration's policies, we remain confident that the coming months will present more opportunities for minority buyouts and large share buy-back. The prolonged market instability has resulted in depressed stock valuations, making it an opportune moment for majority shareholders to consider restructuring their holdings. In this climate, we anticipate that controlling shareholders will seize the opportunity to acquire minority stakes at attractive prices, leveraging the temporary undervaluation of their stocks to consolidate ownership and strengthen their positions.

Vincent Valldecabres - Laurent Roussel

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### **Ixios Special Situations Monthly Performances**

Year	I Class	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	ITD
2025	I Class	0.86%	-3.43%											-2.60%	34.40%
2025	8% Objective*	0.66%	0.59%											1.25%	40.04%
2024	I Class	-1.99%	-1.60%	5.41%	-2.95%	4.46%	-2.10%	2.54%	-0.21%	4.25%	1.38%	0.12%	-2.43%	6.59%	37.98%
2024	8% Objective*	0.70%	0.61%	0.61%	0.68%	0.66%	0.59%	0.70%	0.63%	0.66%	0.66%	0.61%	0.68%	8.07%	38.30%
2023	I Class	10.06%	1.89%	-7.13%	-0.36%	-4.74%	4.32%	4.64%	-2.89%	0.80%	-6.77%	2.83%	5.77%	7.12%	29.46%
2023	8% Objective*	0.68%	0.59%	0.66%	0.59%	0.70%	0.63%	0.66%	0.66%	0.61%	0.68%	0.63%	0.61%	7.98%	27.98%
2022	I Class	1.21%	0.33%	3.53%	-1.29%	1.61%	-13.17%	4.09%	-0.68%	-10.41%	6.61%	4.68%	-3.81%	-8.98%	20.85%
2022	8% Objective*	0.66%	0.59%	0.66%	0.61%	0.68%	0.63%	0.61%	0.70%	0.63%	0.66%	0.63%	0.63%	7.98%	18.52%
2021	I Class	-0.10%	3.87%	3.05%	1.19%	2.65%	-0.26%	-0.84%	1.97%	-0.14%	2.50%	-2.91%	3.04%	14.71%	32.78%
2021	8% Objective*	0.61%	0.59%	0.70%	0.63%	0.66%	0.63%	0.63%	0.68%	0.63%	0.61%	0.68%	0.66%	8.00%	9.77%
2020	I Class	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2.24%	14.09%	3.77%		15.75%	
2020															

IXIOS

1.64%

2i Sélection

0.32%

0.66%

0.66%

\* Performance objective of 8% per year on the I share class

8% Objective

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MARKET CAP BREAKDOWNCURRENCY BREAKDOWNImage: display black black

Micro < 300M€ <= Small < 1bn€ <= Mid < 2bn€ <= Big <10bn€ <= Large

### **RISKS INDICATORS**

Risk Indicators	1 Year	Since Inception
Volatility - I	14.2%	15.3%
Sharpe Ratio	0.54	0.46
		Source: Ixios AM

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