

Dear clients, Dear readers,

After several months of particularly intense geopolitical news, the financial markets continued to rise in May.

While the vast majority of equity markets have delivered clearly positive returns, there are significant differences between regions and sectors.

This resilience seems well established despite complicated negotiations between the US and Iran.

Investors continue to favour the hypothesis of a de-escalation that will eventually lead to a deal that Donald Trump has long hoped for.

On the economic front, data from the United States remain relatively encouraging. Growth is slowing down moderately but remains firmly positive. The labour market is showing some signs of exhaustion without deteriorating sharply. Inflation fluctuates in line with oil prices and remains far removed from the Fed's targets without reaching worrying levels.

In Europe, the situation remains more mixed. Growth remains modest but recession risks appear limited at this stage.

Inflation is under control and some leading indicators do not rule out a gradual improvement in activity (if the situation in the Middle East does not deteriorate dramatically).

With regard to the central banks, prudence remains the watchword. Investors seem to have factored in the idea that rate cuts are at best postponed and at worst forgotten.

Monetary authorities want to ensure that inflationary pressures are kept under control before easing policy.

The corporate earnings season for the first quarter was generally satisfactory.

Many companies continue to demonstrate adaptability despite a challenging economic environment.

Leading players in the luxury sector nevertheless acknowledge a challenging short-term environment.

Companies linked to artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure and energy distribution continue to attract investors' attention while other sectors are still struggling to regain real momentum.

The valuations of some companies (such as those active in quantum computing) may seem generous, but the medium-term potential seems impressive.

Geopolitical uncertainties and less accommodative monetary policies than expected by central banks lead us to maintain a balanced approach. In our view, selectivity and diversification remain investors' best allies to navigate the coming months with confidence.



Performance of the main markets in 2026

	May 2026	2026 YTD
EURO STOXX 50	2.87%	4.47%
STOXX Europe 600	2.41%	5.71%
BEL 20	4.31%	9.94%
S&P 500	5.15%	10.73%
S&P 500 Equal Weight	2.51%	8.74%
NASDAQ 100	10.49%	20.13%
NIKKEI 225	11.88%	31.76%
HANG SENG	-2.30%	-1.75%
MSCI EMERGING	9.50%	24.76%
MSCI WORLD	4.37%	9.80%

Charles BOK
Chief Executive Officer