MANAGER COMMENTARY | Q3 2026

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Neuberger Short Duration Euro Bond Fund

MORNINGSTAR RATING™
★★★★★
MORNINGSTAR MEDALIST RATING™ Gold
Analyst-Driven % 10
Data Coverage % 96

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Performance Highlights

The Neuberger Berman Short Duration Euro Bond Fund ("The Fund") delivered a net return of -0.94% for Q3 2026.

Past performance does not predict future returns

PERFORMANCE (%)[1]	1m[2]	3m[2]	YTD[2]	1y[2]	3y[3]	5y[3]	10y[3]	SI[3,4]
EUR I Accumulating Class	-0.90	-0.94	0.20	0.78	4.77	2.35	-	2.15
Benchmark (EUR)	-0.42	-0.60	0.03	0.51	2.94	0.97	-	0.68

12 MONTH PERIODS (%)[1]	Sep16 Sep17	Sep17 Sep18	Sep18 Sep19	Sep19 Sep20	Sep20 Sep21	Sep21 Sep22	Sep22 Sep23	Sep23 Sep24	Sep24 Sep25	Sep25 Sep26
EUR I Accumulating Class	-	-	-	1.24	2.73	-8.16	6.35	8.77	4.92	0.78
Benchmark (EUR)	-	-	-	-0.30	-0.12	-4.86	1.15	5.47	2.89	0.51

CALENDAR (%)	2017	2018[5]	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026[6]
EUR I Accumulating Class	-	-0.19	1.65	2.50	1.04	-5.59	6.72	7.37	3.86	0.20
Benchmark (EUR)	-	0.19	0.44	0.17	-0.52	-4.97	4.02	3.66	2.64	0.03

Effective 4 August 2026, the fund's name was updated to reflect the firm's rebranding from Neuberger Berman or NB to Neuberger.

The Fund is actively managed, which means that the investments are selected at the discretion of the investment manager. The Fund is not constrained by its benchmark, the Bloomberg Euro Aggregate 1-3 Years (Total Return, EUR), which is used for comparison purposes only.

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1. Performance to latest month end. YTD – Year to Date, SI – Since Inception. 12 month period based on month end NAVs.
2. Returns for these periods are cumulative.
3. Returns are annualised for periods longer than one year.
4. Returns from 31 October 2018 to latest month end.
5. Data shown since the share class inception date.
6. Performance for the current calendar year is the year to date.

Fund performance is representative of the EUR I Accumulating Class and has been calculated to account for the deduction of fees. Investors who subscribe in a currency other than the base currency of the fund should note that returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. Fund performance does not take account of any commission or costs incurred by investors when subscribing for or redeeming shares.

Market Context

In September, global investment grade (IG) fixed income delivered negative total returns, as measured by the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Index (USD hedged), as a third consecutive month of government bond weakness and wider spreads weighed on credit. European credit sectors also declined but held up better than global IG corporates, with Pan-European and Euro corporate indices falling roughly 1.2% and Pan-European high yield declining 1.66% as spread widening outweighed carry. For the third quarter and year-to-date period, European credit again outperformed global IG corporates, with European high yield delivering the strongest return over the quarter (−1.22%) and the only clearly positive year-to-date return among the indices (+1.36%), while Euro and Pan-European IG corporates were roughly flat year to date.

The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporates Index (USD hedged) returned −2.10% for the month (−3.12% for 3Q), while the Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Corporates Index (USD hedged) returned −1.18% (−2.12% for 3Q). Pan-European Aggregate Corporates returned −1.16% (−2.07% for 3Q) and Pan-European High Yield returned −1.66% (−1.22% for 3Q), both USD hedged.

Interest rate markets across major developed sovereign curves sold off sharply and in unison in September, the third consecutive monthly decline for government bonds, as higher energy prices, heavy debt issuance and a series of central bank decisions pushed yields higher. Germany's 10-year Bund yield rose 26 bps to close at 3.58%, while Italy's 10-year yield climbed 49 bps to 4.63%, widening the Italy–Bund spread by roughly 23 bps to about 105 bps. The U.K. 10-year gilt yield increased 35 bps to 5.41%, near its highest level since 2007, while U.S. Treasury 10-year yields rose 41 bps to 5.16%, a level last seen in 2007. For the quarter, the 10-year Bund yield rose roughly 72 bps from 2.86% at the end of June, the gilt about 65 bps from 4.76% and the Treasury about 69 bps from 4.47%. With yields sharply higher, spreads wider and rate volatility elevated, fixed income total returns were negative in September and for the quarter. These moves reflected a repricing of global policy expectations as market participants weighed central bank tightening, fiscal and supply concerns, geopolitical risks and upside inflation surprises tied to energy prices.

Macro conditions through September reflected firmer activity alongside re-accelerating inflation. At its September 10 meeting, the ECB raised all three key policy rates by 25 bps, taking the deposit facility rate to 2.50% (effective September 16)—its second hike of 2026 after a pause in July—citing inflation pressures tied to the Middle East conflict while retaining a data-dependent, meeting-by-meeting approach. Euro area headline CPI rose to 3.2% year-over-year in August, and the September flash estimate accelerated further to 3.8%, above expectations, while core inflation edged up to 2.5% from 2.4%. Growth surprised to the upside: Q2 GDP was revised up to +0.6% QoQ from a flat Q1, and the September flash composite PMI rose to 53.1, its highest level since April 2023. Stronger activity and higher inflation lifted expectations for further ECB tightening, adding to EUR rates volatility. Elsewhere, the Bank of England held Bank Rate at 3.75% on a 6–3 vote with three members favouring a hike, and the U.S. Federal Reserve raised rates by 25 bps to 3.75%–4.00%, its first increase since 2023.

Credit Markets and Spreads

In September, credit spreads widened meaningfully across global and European credit, reversing part of the second-quarter tightening. The sell-off in government bonds, heavy supply, renewed European sovereign stress and rising inflation and policy uncertainty outweighed continued demand for yield and broadly stable issuer fundamentals. The widening was most pronounced in higher-beta European high yield, and was seen across most sectors globally, led by Business Development Companies, Software and Real Estate. Technicals nonetheless remained constructive in European IG: primary issuance was robust, orderbooks were frequently multiple times covered and new issue concessions were limited. For the quarter, spreads widened across all four segments, and the year-to-date picture turned modestly negative, with spreads ending September wider than year-end levels.

- Global Aggregate Corporate spreads widened about 5 bps in September, ending the month at approximately 85 bps; for 3Q, spreads widened about 7 bps and are roughly 5 bps wider YTD.
- Euro Corporate spreads widened about 12 bps in September, closing at approximately 91 bps, after widening about 11 bps during 3Q; YTD, spreads are around 13 bps wider.
- Pan-European IG Corporate spreads widened about 11 bps month over month, finishing September at approximately 91 bps; spreads widened about 10 bps in 3Q and are roughly 12 bps wider YTD.
- Pan-European High Yield corporate spreads widened about 44 bps in September to close at approximately 321 bps and widened about 38 bps over 3Q; the segment is roughly 40 bps wider versus year-end levels of around 281 bps but remains inside end-of-first-quarter levels.

Overall, September's spread widening reversed a meaningful part of the second-quarter recovery in European credit, but it was driven largely by rates, supply and technical pressure rather than a deterioration in credit quality. Underlying fundamentals across European IG and HY issuers remain broadly intact, with balance sheets and refinancing access still supportive, while higher all-in yields improve the carry cushion and entry points. In sterling, issuance increased but remained manageable relative to demand, with Financials generally outperforming. That said, rate volatility remains elevated and spreads are still relatively tight by historical standards, reinforcing the need for selectivity. In line with NB's current fixed income views, we remain constructive but disciplined: carry is attractive, but performance is likely to be driven more by issuer selection, quality bias and relative value than by broad spread compression from here.

From an economic conditions' perspective, we saw the following:

- **Eurozone**: Eurostat's updated estimate showed Q2 2026 GDP growth of +0.6% QoQ (+1.2% YoY), up from a flat Q1, though the quarter was flattered by a sharp rebound in Ireland (+10.2% QoQ) after its Q1 contraction. Inflation re-accelerated: headline euro area CPI rose to 3.2% YoY in August and the September flash estimate jumped to 3.8%, driven by energy, while core CPI edged up to 2.5% from 2.4%.

- Activity indicators strengthened: the September flash composite PMI rose to 53.1 from 52.0 in August, with services at 53.0 from 51.6, the strongest composite reading since April 2023 and a third consecutive month of expansion. At its September 10 meeting, the ECB raised all three key interest rates by 25 bps, taking the deposit facility rate to 2.50% (main refinancing rate 2.65%, marginal lending rate 2.90%), effective September 16—the second increase of 2026, following June and a hold in July. The Council said inflationary pressures from the Middle East conflict would keep inflation above the 2% target for an extended period, with risks to the inflation outlook tilted to the upside, while maintaining its data-dependent, meeting-by-meeting framework with no pre-committed rate path. The next policy decision is on October 29.

- **Germany**: expanded roughly 0.2% QoQ in Q2, in line with France and Italy, and the improvement in the September PMIs points to firmer momentum into Q3. Medium-term fiscal support remains the key potential tailwind for the growth outlook, although the rise in the 10-year Bund yield to 3.58% is tightening financial conditions.

- **Spain**: again outperformed regional peers with Q2 growth of +0.7% QoQ, retaining its status as the strongest performer among the large Eurozone economies, supported by resilient domestic demand and the improvement in services activity across the region.

- **Italy**: grew roughly 0.2% QoQ in Q2, in line with the other large economies, but the 10-year yield rose about 49 bps in September to 4.63% and the spread to Bunds widened to around 105 bps as renewed European sovereign stress and heavy supply weighed on peripheral bonds.

- **UK**: Inflation data for the UK were less encouraging in August. Headline CPI rose to 3.1% YoY from 2.9% in July, driven by higher petrol and diesel prices that lifted goods inflation to 2.7%, while core CPI was unchanged at 2.6% and services inflation held at 3.4%. Real GDP grew 0.5% QoQ in Q2 following 0.6% in Q1, while the labour market remained soft, with unemployment at 4.9% in the three months to July and private-sector regular pay growth easing to 2.9%. The BoE MPC voted 6–3 to hold Bank Rate at 3.75% at its September meeting—the sixth consecutive hold—with three members (Greene, Mann and Pill) dissenting in favour of a 25bps increase to 4.00%, up from two dissenters in June. The Committee judged that risks to inflation are tilted to the upside, signalled that policy may need to tighten if the Middle East conflict persists and second-round effects emerge, and voted unanimously to reduce its stock of gilt holdings, adding to supply pressure in the gilt market. The near-term policy path hinges on whether energy-driven price pressures spill into wages and services inflation; the next decision on November 5 looks closely balanced, and the 10-year gilt yield at 5.41% reflects both higher policy-rate expectations and elevated term premia.

Within investment grade and non-investment grade corporates, fundamentals remain broadly stable, supported by higher-quality issuers in IG and structurally lower beta in high yield that continue to limit the risk of severe spread widening. The September widening reflected rates, supply and technical pressure rather than a broad deterioration in credit fundamentals; idiosyncratic risks remain most acute at the low end of the quality spectrum, and higher energy costs and a tightening bias at the ECB and Bank of England add to refinancing-cost and margin risks.

Spreads have moved off their historical tights, and with all-in yields at multi-year highs, resilient investor demand and broadly stable issuer fundamentals, carry-oriented positioning is better supported than it was a quarter ago. Looking ahead, EUR IG issuance remains on track for a record year, with September corporate supply of roughly €56bn taking year-to-date volumes to around €389bn, about 11% ahead of last year, and we expect the October calendar to remain active; however, rate volatility, a possible further ECB hike on 29 October and the Bank of England decision on 5 November leave investors more disciplined on pricing, favouring higher-quality issuers and shorter/intermediate maturities. Bottom-up credit selection remains critical in finding value and managing downside risk, with a focus on issuers best positioned to navigate higher rates, elevated volatility and an evolving policy environment. Our focus remains on fundamentals as we seek attractive entry points across the investable universe, and we will continue to evaluate positioning to ensure we remain well-aligned with evolving market dynamics.

Performance Drivers

Performance

The portfolio returned -0.94% (net, EUR Hedged) in Q3 2026, underperforming the benchmark (Bloomberg Euro Aggregate 1-3 Year Index, EUR Hedged) by 34bps net of fees.

Some specific key performance drivers for Q3 2026:

- **Credit selection** – Credit selection was a detractor (-24bps) over the quarter, particularly within High Yield consumer cyclical, consumer non-cyclical, and financial sectors.

- **Duration and curve** – Duration was a negative contributor to returns, detracting approximately 18bps from relative performance. Duration was almost flat compared to the benchmark, however given the Fund's sizeable allocation to Investment Grade Credit (including limited longer maturity bonds in the tactical bucket), this was a detractor.

- **Sector allocation** – Sector allocation added +19bps, with our overweight to Securitsed and High Yield, as well as underweight to Sovereign Bonds being the main drivers.

- Through the quarter we cut duration briefly to around 1.7y in July on Hormuz risk, and rebuilt to just below the 2-year upper limit post the sell off towards the end of the quarter. The Fund remains long credit. Over the quarter we increased Investment Grade Credit exposure and reduced High Yield slightly, particularly rich BB bonds. We rotated strong performers into laggards and idiosyncratic opportunities, including taking profit on the software names added earlier in the year. Covered bonds were reduced, whereas we added to Securitised Credit (including consumer loan and auto loan ABS as well as CMBS). We continue to focus on securities across the capital stack with attractive relative valuations, taking part in new issues where premia were attractive.

Conclusion

The Fund has performed very favourably against both peers and the benchmark on a medium-long term basis, **ranking top decile across 2, 3 and 5 years** within the Morningstar peer group (EAA Fund EUR Diversified Bond – Short Term). Active management across our Core and Tactical buckets remains a key focus for the Fund, as we have continued to find opportunities across our universe to add value to performance from both a total return and risk management perspective.

Yields continue to remain at attractive levels, with the investable universe bolstered by higher coupons - which should help sustain performance from a carry perspective.

We thank you again for your continued support.

This Fund meets the requirements of Article 8 of the SFDR. Further information is available in the Fund's offering documents and at www.nb.com

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