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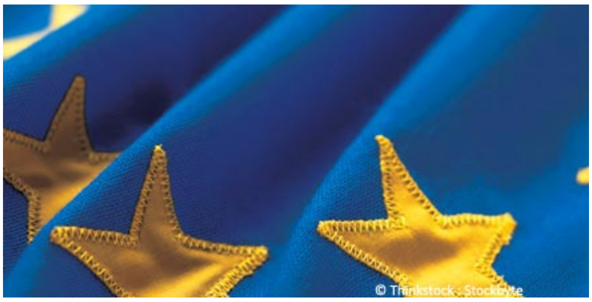
Euro equities will outshine US in 2015, says Swiss fund body

By Chris Sloley on 03 March 2015



The European equity market will strongly outperform its US equivalent in the coming year according to leading fund selectors and strategists in Switzerland.
This was the consensus among attendees at the Investment Strategist Association of Geneva meeting at the end of February.

The trade body, known as ISAG, is made up of 20 members covering fund selection, private banking, fund management and strategy.
The group, which last month dispelled interest in the frontier markets, were quizzed on their outlook for the European equity market over the coming year.
When questioned whether it was time to look at other markets, given geopolitical tensions and central bank policy changes, 88% of respondents disagreed and said they would be retaining focus on European equities.

This strong support was emphasised when 63% of those in attendance said they believed European equities would deliver a better performance than US shares over the course of 2015. This compares to 37% who said it would not.
While there was strong support for European equities, the consensus among attendees was it was still the correct measure to adopt a neutral weighting here, while more of the group said they had adopted an overweight position in US equity.
According to those polled, equities accounts for an average of 44% of allocation in investors' portfolios, while credit makes up 23%, sovereign bonds sits at 12% and 6% in cash.

Discussing other macro matters, 80% said the Federal Reserve would be forced into raising rates by the end of year, while 20% said it would not.