# **INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE**

June 30 2016

**CHOU EUROPE FUND** 

CHOU ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT INC.

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete financial statements of the Fund. You can get a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling Toll-free: 1-888-357-5070, by writing to us at 110 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 301, Box 18, Toronto, Ontario M2N 6Y8 or by visiting our website at <u>www.choufunds.com</u> and SEDAR at <u>www.sedar.com</u>.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance, or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent our beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. We caution readers of this document not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

Actual results may differ materially from management expectations as projected in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest, and the risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's Simplified Prospectus. We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive, and that when relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to investing in the Fund, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties and potential events, and the inherent uncertainty of forward-looking statements. Due to the potential impact of these factors, the family of Chou Funds does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

Chou Associates Management Inc. ("the Manager") manages the overall business of the Fund, including the selection of the securities in the Fund's portfolio and promoting sales of the Fund's units. For the purposes of this document, the terms Chou Associates Management Inc. and "the Manager" are interchangeable. Full contact information for the Manager is located at the end of this report.

# **Management Discussion of Fund Performance**

## **Investment Objective and Strategies**

Chou Europe Fund's (the "Fund") objective is to provide long-term growth of capital by investing primarily in equity securities of European businesses considered by the Manager to be undervalued. The Fund may also invest in securities other than equities and in businesses located outside of Europe. The Fund's investments may also include common and preferred shares, convertible debentures, government and corporate bonds and short-term debt.

The Fund's investment strategy follows a strong discipline with regard to the prices paid to acquire portfolio investments. The level of investments in a particular entity's securities is generally commensurate with the current price of the company's securities in relation to the Manager's assessment of such entity's intrinsic value as determined by various factors. This approach is designed to provide an extra margin of safety, which in turn, serves to reduce the Fund's overall portfolio risk.

# Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund are disclosed in the Fund's most recently filed Simplified Prospectus which can be found on the Fund's website at <u>www.choufunds.com</u> and SEDAR at <u>www.sedar.com</u>.

During the period ended June 30, 2016, there were no material changes that affected the Fund's overall level of risk.

## **Results of Operations**

For the period ended June 30, 2016, the Fund decreased 23.1% for Series A units and 22.9% for Series F units, after fees and expenses, while the MSCI AC Europe Total Return Index decreased 10.1% in Canadian dollars. In U.S. dollars, the Fund decreased 17.7% for Series A units and 17.4% for Series F units, while the MSCI AC Europe Total Return Index decreased 4.3%.

European equity markets continued to struggle during the first half of 2016 with weak economic growth, even as the European Central Bank moved deeper into negative rate territory and expanded its asset-purchase program. Brexit-related anxiety weighed heavily on economies in Europe as stocks dropped sharply shortly after Great Britain voted on June 23 to leave the European Union, wiping out \$3 trillion from global stocks in two days. The value of pound sterling tumbled to its lowest since 1985 as investors worried about the economic and political consequences. The three biggest UK building firms were hit the hardest in London, followed by banking stocks in fear of a Brexit-triggered financial crisis. The stock market picked up after Bank of England governor Mark Carney promised the central bank would likely be introducing stimulus efforts that would inject cheap money for the banks to offset the downside economic risks of the Brexit vote.

Positive contributors to the Fund's performance during the period ended June 30, 2016 included equity holdings of GlaxoSmithKline PLC and BP PLC.

The Fund's largest decliners during the period were Bank of Ireland, Next PLC, Abbey PLC, Trastor Real Estate Investment, and Ryanair Holdings PLC. The pound sterling and Euro depreciated against the Canadian currency, which also contributed to the negative performance of the Fund.

Equity positions in Avangardco Investments were reduced by 67%, and the Fund significantly increased holdings of Eurobank Ergasias S.A.

# **CHOU EUROPE FUND**

The Fund's net redemptions for the period ended June 30, 2016 were approximately \$1,755,266 for Series A units and the net purchases were approximately \$747,924 for Series F units. The Fund's average month-end cash position for the period ended June 30, 2016 was 22.7% of the Fund's net assets.

The Fund did not enter into any forward currency contracts for pounds sterling or Euros in the first half of 2016.

#### **Recent Developments**

There have been no recent market developments of particular note, aside from the normal fluctuations of the markets that are expected to have an undue influence on the portfolio of the Fund when compared to its benchmark.

#### **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager manages the overall business of the Fund, including selection of the securities in the Fund's portfolio, and promoting the sale of the Fund's units.

The Manager is also the trustee of the Fund. Investors receive units of a trust when they invest in the Fund. The Manager, as trustee, holds actual title to the property in the Fund, the cash and portfolio securities, on behalf of the Fund's investors.

The Manager, its officers and directors invest in units of the Fund from time to time in the normal course of business. All transactions with the Manager are measured at the exchange amounts.

During the period ended June 30, 2016, there were no transactions with related parties except in the capacities and instances set out above.

## **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the six-month period ended June 30, 2016, and for each of the past five years ended December 31, as applicable.

#### The Fund's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> - Class A Units

|  | lun 2016     | 2015         | <br>2014     | <br>2013     | <br>2012     | <br>2011     |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Assets, beginning of period                        | \$<br>11.94  | \$<br>11.70  | \$<br>11.62  | \$<br>8.32   | \$<br>6.76   | \$<br>7.32   |
| Increase (decrease) from operations:                   |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total revenue  | \$<br>(0.66) | \$<br>0.24   | \$<br>0.24   | \$<br>0.22   | \$<br>0.33   | \$<br>0.23   |
| Total expenses   | \$<br>(0.12) | \$<br>(0.27) | \$<br>(0.27) | \$<br>(0.03) | \$<br>(0.05) | \$<br>(0.03) |
| Realized gains (losses) for the period                 | \$<br>0.13   | \$<br>(0.33) | \$<br>0.36   | \$<br>0.62   | \$<br>(0.42) | \$<br>(1.79) |
| Unrealized gains (losses) for the period               | \$<br>(2.13) | \$<br>0.69   | \$<br>(0.46) | \$<br>2.49   | \$<br>1.96   | \$<br>1.23   |
| Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup> | \$<br>(2.78) | \$<br>0.33   | \$<br>(0.13) | \$<br>3.30   | \$<br>1.82   | \$<br>(0.36) |
| Distributions:   |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| From income (excluding dividends)                      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>0.16   | \$<br>0.14   | \$<br>0.30   | \$<br>0.19   |
| From dividends   | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      |
| From capital gains                                     | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      |
| Return of capital                                      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      |
| Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>                       | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>0.16   | \$<br>0.14   | \$<br>0.30   | \$<br>0.19   |
| Net Assets, end of period                              | \$<br>9.17   | \$<br>11.94  | \$<br>11.70  | \$<br>11.62  | \$<br>8.29   | \$<br>6.76   |
| Net Assets, end of period (USD)                        | \$<br>7.10   | \$<br>8.63   | \$<br>10.08  | \$<br>10.93  | \$<br>8.33   | \$<br>6.65   |

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class A Units**

|   |    | Jun 2016 |    | 2015     |    | 2014     |    | 2013     | <br>2012    | <br>2011    |
|---|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>                           | \$ | 12,282   | \$ | 17,974   | \$ | 20,919   | \$ | 17,952   | \$<br>7,803 | \$<br>6,535 |
| Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>                            | 1  | ,338,718 | 1  | ,505,730 | 1  | ,785,202 | 1  | ,544,393 | 937,889     | 964,369     |
| Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>                               |    | 1.83%    |    | 1.95%    |    | 1.90%    |    | 0.13%    | 0.20%       | 0.17%       |
| Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup> |    | 1.83%    |    | 1.95%    |    | 1.90%    |    | 1.81%    | 1.89%       | 1.86%       |
| Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>                                  |    | 0.16%    |    | 0.00%    |    | 0.02%    |    | 0.01%    | 0.01%       | 0.02%       |
| Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>                                |    | 0.94%    |    | 0.00%    |    | 9.49%    |    | 0.00%    | 10.49%      | 14.53%      |
| Net Asset Value per Unit  | \$ | 9.17     | \$ | 11.94    | \$ | 11.70    | \$ | 11.62    | \$<br>8.32  | \$<br>6.78  |

#### The Fund's Net Assets per Unit<sup>1</sup> - Class F Units

|  | ]  | Jun 2016 | <br>2015     | <br>2014     | 2013         | <br>2012     | <br>2011     |
|--|----|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Assets, beginning of period                        | \$ | 12.10    | \$<br>11.79  | \$<br>11.74  | \$<br>8.41   | \$<br>6.83   | \$<br>7.32   |
| Increase (decrease) from operations:                   |    |          |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total revenue  | \$ | (0.67)   | \$<br>0.24   | \$<br>0.23   | \$<br>0.14   | \$<br>0.35   | \$<br>0.23   |
| Total expenses   | \$ | (0.09)   | \$<br>(0.20) | \$<br>(0.19) | \$<br>(0.02) | \$<br>(0.05) | \$<br>(0.04) |
| Realized gains (losses) for the period                 | \$ | 0.13     | \$<br>(0.34) | \$<br>0.39   | \$<br>0.58   | \$<br>(0.36) | \$<br>(0.29) |
| Unrealized gains (losses) for the period               | \$ | (2.16)   | \$<br>0.22   | \$<br>(1.26) | \$<br>1.94   | \$<br>1.63   | \$<br>(0.65) |
| Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup> | \$ | (2.79)   | \$<br>(0.08) | \$<br>(0.83) | \$<br>2.64   | \$<br>1.57   | \$<br>(0.75) |
| Distributions:   |    |          |              |              |              |              |              |
| From income (excluding dividends)                      | \$ | -        | \$<br>-      | \$<br>0.12   | \$<br>0.14   | \$<br>0.31   | \$<br>0.12   |
| From dividends   | \$ | -        | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      |
| From capital gains                                     | \$ | -        | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      |
| Return of capital                                      | \$ | -        | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      | \$<br>-      |
| Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>                       | \$ | -        | \$<br>-      | \$<br>0.12   | \$<br>0.14   | \$<br>0.31   | \$<br>0.12   |
| Net Assets, end of period                              | \$ | 9.33     | \$<br>12.10  | \$<br>11.79  | \$<br>11.74  | \$<br>8.37   | \$<br>6.83   |
| Net Assets, end of period (USD)                        | \$ | 7.22     | \$<br>8.75   | \$<br>10.16  | \$<br>11.04  | \$<br>8.42   | \$<br>6.72   |

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data - Class F Units**

|   | <br>Jun 2016 | <br>2015    | <br>2014    | 2013        | <br>2012      | 2011   |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
| Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>                           | \$<br>2,243  | \$<br>3,827 | \$<br>2,370 | \$<br>929   | \$<br>18 \$   | 26     |
| Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>                            | 240,444      | 316,204     | 200,686     | 79,132      | 2,180         | 3,858  |
| Management Expense Ratio <sup>5</sup>                               | 1.26%        | 1.37%       | 1.31%       | 0.11%       | 0.23%         | 0.22%  |
| Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup> | 1.26%        | 1.37%       | 1.31%       | 1.16%       | 1.36%         | 1.34%  |
| Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>                                  | 0.16%        | 0.00%       | 0.02%       | 0.01%       | 0.01%         | 0.02%  |
| Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>                                | 0.94%        | 0.00%       | 9.49%       | 0.00%       | 10.49%        | 14.53% |
| Net Asset Value per Unit  | \$<br>9.33   | \$<br>12.10 | \$<br>11.79 | \$<br>11.74 | \$<br>8.41 \$ | 6.85   |

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual and unaudited semi-annual financial statements. For financial reporting purposes, prior to January 1, 2013, under Canadian GAAP, the net assets per security presented in the financial statements differ from the net asset value calculated for fund pricing purposes.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Fund or paid in cash upon request.

<sup>(4)</sup> This information is provided as at period end shown and is rounded to the nearest thousand.

<sup>(5)</sup> Management expense ratio ("MER") is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of weekly average net asset value during the period. The Manager may, at its discretion, waive or absorb certain operating expenses. MER includes the waiver or absorption by the Manager of certain operating expenses, while the MER before absorption shows the MER prior to operating expenses being waived or absorbed by the Manager.

<sup>(6)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of weekly average net asset value during the period.

<sup>(7)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio adviser manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

<sup>(8)</sup> Information from 2013 and thereafter is in accordance with IFRS. Information for years prior to 2013 is reported under Canadian GAAP.

#### Management Fees

The Manager manages the Fund. The Manager is entitled to an investment management fee calculated daily as a percentage of the market value of the net assets equal to 1.5% per annum for Series A units and 1.0% per annum for Series F units, payable monthly. The Manager pays 50 basis points per year trailer fees to dealers out of management fees for Series A units. There is no trailer fee paid out for Series F units.

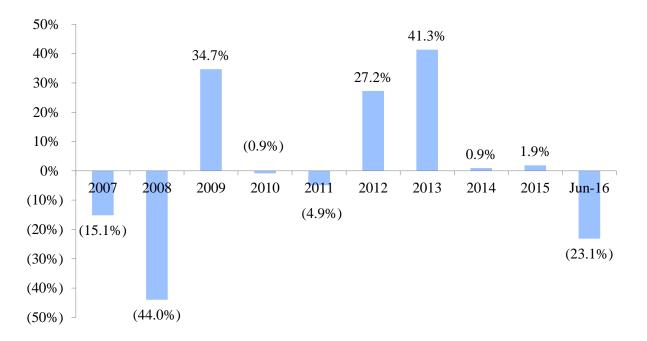
# **Past Performance**

## General

The following charts and tables show the Fund's past performance. Rates of return are historical total returns that include changes in unit prices and assume the reinvestment of all distributions. These returns do not take into account any sales charges, redemption fees, other optional expenses or income taxes that the Fund's investors have to pay and which could reduce these returns. The Fund's past performance does not necessarily indicate its future performance.

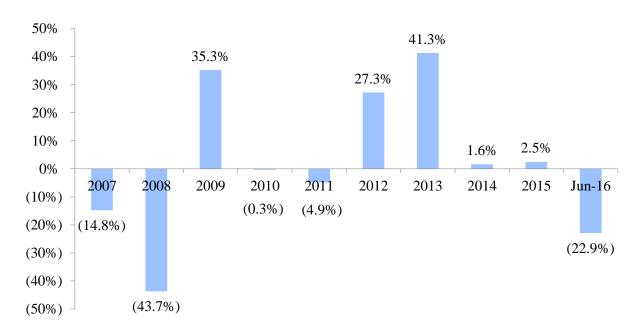
## Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar charts show the annual performance for each of the Series A and Series F units of the Fund for each of the years shown. Each chart shows, in percentage terms, how an investment on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31 for each of the years, and how the performance of the Fund varied from year to year. The return for 2016 is for the six-month period from January 1 to June 30.



Series A

# **CHOU EUROPE FUND**



#### Series F

# **Annual Compound Returns**

The following tables<sup>(1)</sup> show the annual compound total return for each of the Series A and Series F units of the Fund. The tables outline the Fund's past performance for the one-, three-, five- and ten-year periods ended on June 30, 2016 for Series A units and since inception and for the one-, three- and five-year periods ended on June 30, 2016 for Series F units. Also shown for the same periods are the respective historical annual compound total returns or changes of the MSCI AC Europe Index (the "Index"). The Index is a free-float weighted equity index. The benchmark Index is calculated without the deduction of management fees and fund expenses, whereas the performance of the Fund is calculated after deducting such fees and expenses.

#### Series A

| June 30, 2016          | Past Year | Past 3 Years | Past 5 Years | Past 10 Years |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Chou Europe Fund       | -28.8%    | -3.4%        | 6.4%         | -0.6%         |
| MSCI AC Europe (\$CAN) | -7.1%     | 9.4%         | 7.5%         | 3.4%          |

| Series F               |           |              |              |                 |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| June 30, 2016          | Past Year | Past 3 Years | Past 5 Years | Since Inception |
| Chou Europe Fund       | -28.4%    | -2.9%        | 6.7%         | 0.2%            |
| MSCI AC Europe (\$CAN) | -7.1%     | 9.4%         | 7.5%         | 4.2%            |

<sup>(1)</sup> Tables assume the reinvestment of all dividends.

# **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

The following tables provide a summary of the Fund's portfolio as at June 30, 2016.

| Geographic Distribution of Portfolio   | % of Fund's Net Assets        |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Continental Europe                     | 57.7%                         |
| United Kingdom                         | 24.0%                         |
| Net Cash & Equivalents                 | 18.4%                         |
| Total Portfolio                        | 100.0%                        |
|  |                               |
| Total Issuers                          | <u>% of Fund's Net Assets</u> |
| (excluding cash equivalents)           |                               |
| Equities                               |                               |
| Next PLC                               | 10.5%                         |
| Ryanair Holdings PLC ADR               | 10.3%                         |
| Sanofi ADR                             | 7.4%                          |
| AstraZeneca PLC                        | 6.9%                          |
| Trastor Real Estate Investment Company | 6.8%                          |
| Intralot S.A.                          | 6.4%                          |
| Bank of Ireland                        | 6.2%                          |
| OTCPHARM PJSC                          | 5.9%                          |
| Pharmstandard GDR                      | 5.9%                          |
| EFG Eurobank Ergasias                  | 4.6%                          |
| Abbey PLC                              | 3.9%                          |
| GlaxoSmithKline PLC                    | 3.4%                          |
| BP PLC ADR                             | 3.2%                          |
| Avangardco Investments Public Limited  | 0.3%                          |
| Total Holdings                         | 81.6%                         |

The summary of the Fund's investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. The next quarterly update as at September 30, 2016 will be in the Quarterly Portfolio Disclosure and will be posted on our website <u>www.choufunds.com</u> on or before October 31, 2016.

#### Chou Associates Management Inc.

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# **Recordkeeping and Custodian**

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## Auditors

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#### Legal Counsel

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