

EURONEXT INDEX OUTLOOK

Investing in the future of Europe:

The role of Euronext's European
Strategic Autonomy Index in an
increasingly uncertain world

Table of contents

Introduction	4
Why strategic autonomy matters	6
Europe's policy response	7
The role of markets in European Strategic Autonomy	9
Euronext's response	12
The Euronext European Strategic Autonomy index	13
Use cases	19
Performance	20
Conclusion: Investing in the future of Europe	21



Europe's strategic autonomy will only be achieved if we match political ambition with the efficient mobilisation of capital. As the leading market infrastructure in Europe, Euronext has a responsibility to channel investment into the companies that build our resilience, strengthen our defence capabilities, and secure our technological sovereignty. Through innovation in indices and capital markets, Euronext is committed to supporting the ecosystem that will drive Europe's economic and strategic sovereignty.

Stéphane Boujnah,
CEO and Chairman of the
Managing Board, Euronext



Introduction

This white paper marks the launch of Euronext's Index Outlook series, a recurring publication designed to give investors deeper insight into our index innovation agenda and the structural forces shaping global markets. Across this series, we aim to translate long-term macro, geopolitical and thematic developments into clear, investable index solutions. Our goal is simple: to provide institutional investors with transparent, rules-based tools that capture the themes defining the future of finance, while showcasing how Euronext indices can support strategic asset allocation in an increasingly complex world.

The new Euronext Strategic Autonomy index family is a series of three thematic indices designed to track European companies critical to the continent's move towards greater self-reliance and economic and supply chain resilience.

Over the past decade, war in Europe and the Middle East, geopolitical shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing international trade barriers have upended decades of assumptions about trade and threatened the very basis of globalisation.

In response, policymakers and corporates are mobilising unprecedented resources to strengthen the continent's strategic autonomy. The EU defines strategic autonomy as a reduction in reliance on countries and supply chains outside the EU across a range of key sectors as well as increasing resilience and defence capabilities. The EU is following up with a raft of policies such as the REPowerEU plan, which mobilises close to €300 billion of investment in renewable energies.

The Euronext Strategic Autonomy index family translates this generational shift in economic and government policy into a series of investable indices. These allow investors to take positions in, and capitalise on, the move towards European strategic autonomy allowing investors across the globe to participate in, and potentially profit from, Europe's drive for strategic autonomy.

The family consists of three core indices: the Euronext European Energy Security index, the Euronext European Aerospace and Defence index and the Euronext European Strategic Autonomy index.

In this whitepaper, we set out the rationale behind the launch of the index family, with a focus on the Euronext European Strategic Autonomy index. We look at the underlying policy response, how Euronext is positioning itself to allow its clients to trade this emerging theme, how the index is calculated and what role the index will play on Europe's long path to greater strategic autonomy.

Tim Rohkemper,
Head of Indices



The key takeaways from this whitepaper are:

- 01** Europe's response to geopolitical shocks, supply chain vulnerabilities and energy dependencies has created a long-term structural shift towards investment in greater resilience and sovereignty.
- 02** Asset managers across Europe are re-evaluating ESG policies to include defence stocks reflecting the importance of military spending in the EU's plan for strategic autonomy.
- 03** European countries will need to spend €1.3 trillion more in 2036 than they do on defence today in order to meet the 5% NATO spending target.
- 04** The EU has introduced a raft of policies including REPowerEU, the EU Chips Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act that are mobilising unprecedented resources to secure energy, technology, defence, and raw materials.
- 05** Achieving strategic autonomy will require hundreds of billions in public and private capital. Bond markets, thematic investment strategies, and financial innovation will be central to financing the transition.
- 06** While renewable energy and sustainability remain core, defence and security are likely to be increasingly re-integrated into ESG investment frameworks, reflecting new geopolitical realities.
- 07** Euronext has developed three thematic benchmarks – Energy Security, Aerospace & Defence, and the Euronext European Strategic Autonomy index – to channel global investment into Europe's resilience agenda.
- 08** Built around 10 equally weighted themes, the Euronext European Strategic Autonomy (EESAP) index provides diversified, policy-aligned exposure to companies driving autonomy across defence, energy, technology, and supply chains.
- 09** The EESAP has outperformed European benchmarks by 154.07% over 10 years (as of 21-10-2025), with especially strong returns following recent geopolitical disruptions – signalling its economic growth potential as a long-term index.

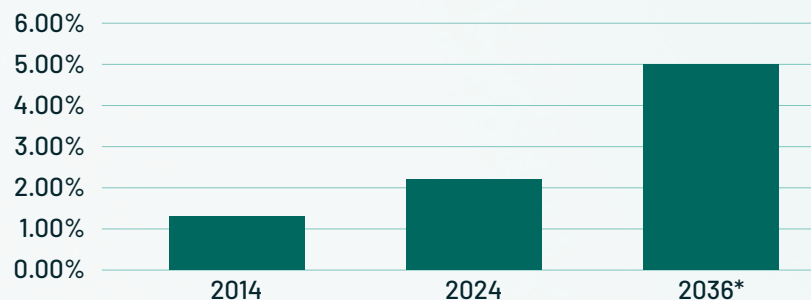
Why strategic autonomy matters

The COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused major disruption to global supply chains and exposed Europe's critical dependencies in energy, defence and supply chains across multiple industries. Over the past year, the US trade war and the increasing move towards a multipolar world order have further highlighted the need for Europe to reduce its reliance on external powers and reinforce its economic sovereignty.

At the same time, the growing threat from Russia and US President Trump's entreaties to increase defence spending have led to NATO countries pledging to raise defence spending to 5% of GDP by 2035 from current the current target of 2%. Europe's current GDP is €24.3 trillion according to the IMF. Assuming an annual growth rate of 2% per year between now and 2036, the economy will be €35.06 trillion. That would mean defence spending of €1.75 trillion in 2036 – an increase of €1.3 trillion from today.

Average European defence expenditure across countries as a share of GDP

Source: Nato
*projected



Successfully making this transition to strategic autonomy – across both defence and supply chains – will require massive investment by European governments and companies. Given the increasingly dominant role that indices play in directing investment flows, they will be fundamental to building investor confidence in the theme and attracting savings towards this push for strategic autonomy.

The themes themselves are secular and set to play out over a long-term horizon. Re-alignment of the continent's energy strategy, overhaul

of multinational supply chains, investment in securing critical raw materials and the capacity within Europe to develop semiconductors on a far larger scale than today, and military mobilisation are all trends that are set to endure independently of political cycles over the next decade and beyond.

The strategic autonomy plan encompasses a multi-decade investment cycle presenting huge opportunities to long-term investors and assuring longevity of the theme.

Europe's policy response

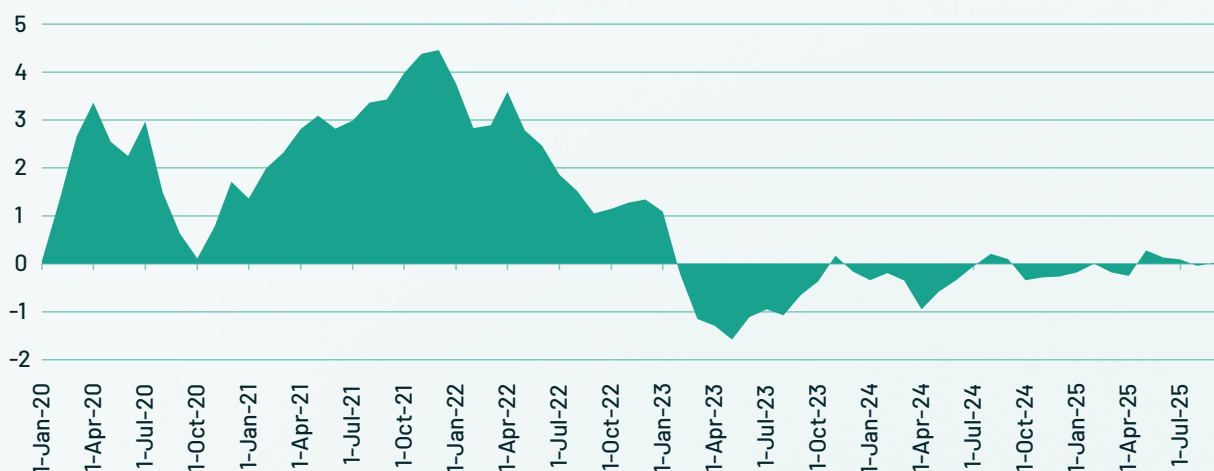
Europe's policy response to the changing economic and security environment has been extensive. Within three weeks of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in March 2022, leaders of the European Union issued the Versailles Declaration.

The declaration signalled multiple areas in which policies would be developed to make the EU more self-reliant across a range of sectors. With regards to defence, EU leaders committed to bigger budgets, increased co-operation between countries in military projects and channelling investment into new technologies.

For economic security, the EU pledged to reduce dependencies in critical sectors including raw materials, semi-conductors and digital technologies. In addition, it pledged to deepen the Capital Markets Union to improve capital flows across the block.

To increase energy independence, the declaration set a goal to phase out its dependence on Russian fossil fuels and other energy suppliers as well as to invest in renewables and energy efficiency. The exposure of the EU to Russian energy was laid bare in the months that followed the invasion of Ukraine, as prices soared to record levels in the wake of supply disruption. The Global Supply Chain Pressure index, a global benchmark developed by the New York Federal Reserve to measure the intensity of disruptions to global supply chains showed significant spikes around the outbreak of COVID-19 and Russia's fullscale invasion of Ukraine.

Global supply chain pressure index



Source: New York Fed

The Versailles Declaration led to a flurry of policymaking. The REPowerEU plan, the EU Chips Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act all represented the early steps towards realising the vision set out in the declaration, highlighting a structural shift toward resilience and autonomy.

Within defence, the Strategic Compass policy document set out in detail plans to strengthen the EU's security and defence by 2030. Subsequently, in 2025, the EU announced the European Defence Strategy and Investment Programme, which includes the Rearm Europe Plan and introduces incentives to encourage member states to jointly invest to procure military hardware.

Key EU policies designed to realise strategic autonomy

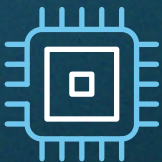


REPowerEU

INTENTION

To phase out usage of Russian energy and accelerate the clean energy transition.

LAUNCHED
MAY 2022



EU Chips Act

INTENTION

To bolster the EU's semiconductor ecosystem and meet the EU Digital Decade target of doubling the EU's global market share of semiconductors.

LAUNCHED
SEPTEMBER 2023



Critical Raw Materials Act

INTENTION

To secure a sustainable and resilient supply of critical raw materials by increased domestic extraction and improving supply chain resilience.

LAUNCHED
MAY 2024

The role of markets in European Strategic Autonomy

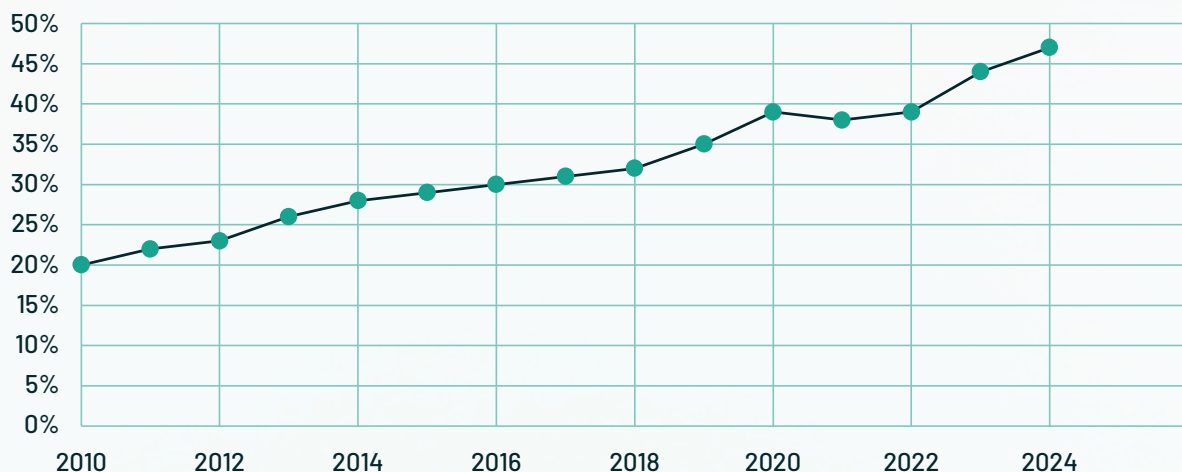
For investors, European strategic autonomy represents a long-term structural shift in economic policy. It is reinforced by government spending, corporate reshoring strategies and massive investment across a range of sectors.

These changes will often be dynamic. Onshoring chip manufacturing capabilities, specifically for AI purposes, is an initiative that will require

significant investment and re-prioritisation of resources, while investment in defence. While investment in defence will mobilise large swathes of the economy from research and development to manufacturing.

At the same time, instruments designed to fund renewable energy investment will increase in volume and sophistication. Companies will then be better able to channel funds towards long-term projects to build renewable energy plants and associated technologies such as batteries and energy storage and transmission mechanisms.

Renewable energy contribution to total EU consumption



Source: The European Commission

These financial requirements create a secular investment opportunity for institutions across Europe. Government borrowing will have to

increase further – as evidenced by the historic move by Germany to amend its long-standing national fiscal “debt brake”.

EU government spending

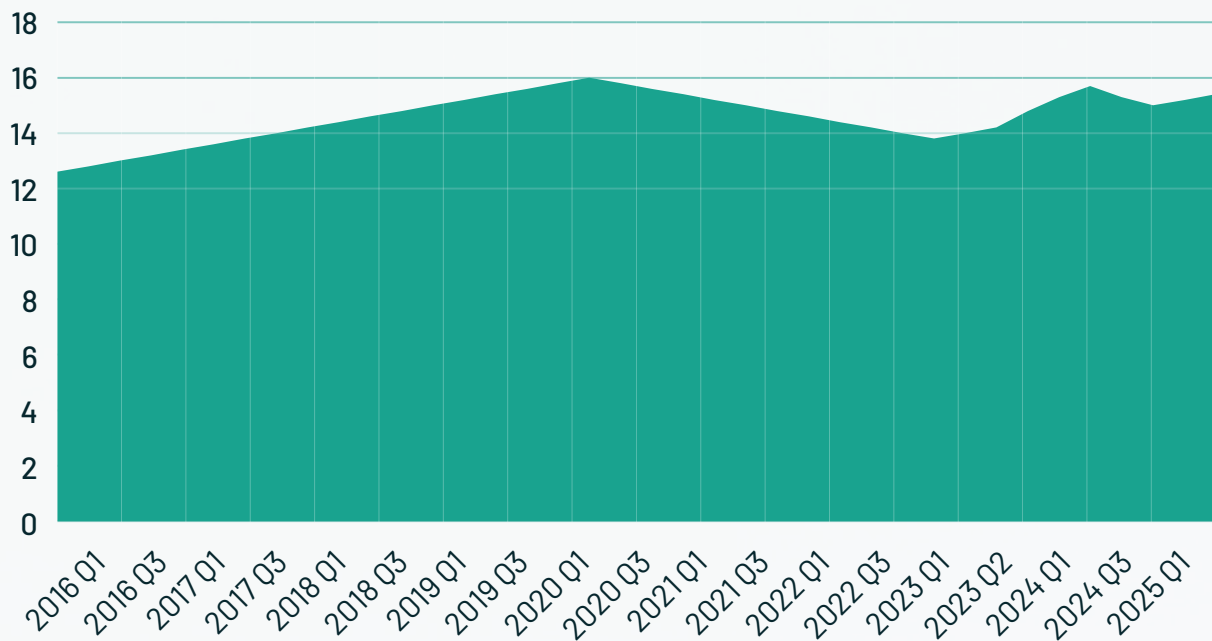


Source: Trading Economics

The investments required to achieve the goals of Europe's strategic autonomy are expected to create attractive opportunities for investors. In this context, several funds have recently been launched with a focus on strategic sectors, for example, the BPI Defence Fund, announced by French President Emmanuel Macron. Public deficits will have to be funded by bond markets, while private companies will also issue bonds, as well as other debt instruments, to invest in new technologies. This enables significant opportunity for financial innovation, as banks and asset managers create investment products that fuel investment and capture the returns on offer from this shift.

As governments and institutions funnel capital towards strategic autonomy, saving rates among European citizens are increasing. The overall savings rate in Europe has grown from 12.6% in 2016 to 15.4% today. As savers look to grow their capital, these savings are likely to be increasingly invested in strategic autonomy. In France, for example, President Macron launched an initiative in 2023 to allow savings held in Livret A tax-free savings accounts to be used to finance France's defence industrial base.

EU saving rates



A central tenet of this chapter of financial innovation will be thematic approaches to capturing returns. Already a well-established, and steadily growing, part of the investment ecosystem, an investment strategy led by thematic indices is the logical companion to following an economic shift of the magnitude that Europe is undertaking. As a result, investors will increasingly use thematic ETFs/indices to target and gain exposure to the growth that will accompany the strategic autonomy investment.

This will require effective means of flowing capital to the biggest corporate contributors to the economic themes underpinning strategic autonomy.

It will also require re-assessment of the investment themes that have dominated much of the previous

decade. Prime among these is ESG, which has rightly been a major focus of end investors and authorities and indeed shows the continent's ability to channel large investment flows into a strategic theme.

While many ESG principles are central to strategic autonomy, such as in its focus on renewable energy production, other tenets of the approach have to be reconsidered in light of these changing times.

This is already happening, with asset managers across Europe reviewing exclusion strategies that eliminated investment in military hardware in light of the current geopolitical situation – a trend that is likely to accelerate. Today, defence stocks – once routinely screened out – are now present in over one third of European ESG funds.

Euronext's response

These trends and the shifting opinions on ESG are creating opportunities for firms across the market to innovate and bring new products to investors that will increase capital efficiency, returns, and allow firms to position themselves to take precise positions for growth in certain sectors.

Euronext is leading the field among European exchanges in its development of indices around the EU's goals of strategic autonomy. The exchange has focused on three key themes: Energy, Security and Geostrategy.

It has launched the Euronext European Energy Security index, which tracks companies that play a key role in building Europe's energy stability across key sectors including conventional energy, nuclear power and renewable and critical energy infrastructure.

In security, it has developed the Euronext European Aerospace and Defence index, which captures the innovators and leaders across aerospace, defence technologies and advanced manufacturing.

The Euronext European Strategic Autonomy index, which is the focus of this paper, provides targeted exposure to companies that drive strategic independence across defence, energy, technology and other critical sectors.





The Euronext European Strategic Autonomy Index

Euronext European Strategic Autonomy (EESAP) index captures this trend by following investment themes across ten themes.

Starting from the Euronext Developed Europe universe, companies are filtered based on revenue alignment to the ten themes incorporated in the index. The Index Universe consists of the Companies included in the Euronext Developed Europe Total Market index that are incorporated in the European Economic Area (EEA).

Companies are selected from the Euronext Developed Europe universe using FactSet RBICS classifications, a very granular database of revenues linked to companies' business segment. To be included, a company must generate at least 50% of its revenue from one of the ten themes, as defined by the aggregation of several business segments.

Within each theme, eligible companies are ranked by market capitalisation with all eligible companies selected for inclusion. The EESAP index is free-float market-cap weighted but capped to maintain a balance between the themes. Each of the ten themes has an equal 10% weighting in the index, which ensures that no single theme is dominant in the index.

The index methodology results in a well-diversified portfolio driven by two key factors: the selection of themes with low correlations to one another, and the inclusion of smaller-capitalisation components. The table below illustrates the low correlation levels observed between the different thematic segments.

Correlation levels between thematic segments

as of 14/10/2025 (on 15 years historical data)

Theme	Aerospace & Defence	Energy Production & Distribution	Financials	Food Security	Infrastructure	Logistics	Pharma & Chemicals	Power Grid & Equipment	Semiconductors	Software
Aerospace & Defence	100,00%	50,86%	68,34%	50,29%	70,62%	68,04%	37,53%	57,57%	47,23%	50,45%
Energy Production & Distribution	50,86%	100,00%	64,34%	58,46%	69,34%	59,27%	44,45%	59,17%	40,97%	45,26%
Financials	68,34%	64,34%	100,00%	57,53%	79,48%	70,01%	42,10%	65,69%	49,73%	53,33%
Food Security	50,29%	58,46%	57,53%	100,00%	66,46%	54,31%	48,74%	50,32%	37,56%	48,52%
Infrastructure	70,62%	69,34%	79,48%	66,46%	100,00%	75,25%	50,15%	71,56%	55,22%	61,96%
Logistics	68,04%	59,27%	70,01%	54,31%	75,25%	100,00%	47,31%	66,43%	53,92%	58,24%
Pharma & Chemicals	37,53%	44,45%	42,10%	48,74%	50,15%	47,31%	100,00%	48,34%	42,39%	48,75%
Power Grid & Equipment	57,57%	59,17%	65,69%	50,32%	71,56%	66,43%	48,34%	100,00%	65,12%	64,36%
Semiconductors	47,23%	40,97%	49,73%	37,56%	55,22%	53,92%	42,39%	65,12%	100,00%	64,55%
Software	50,45%	45,26%	53,33%	48,52%	61,96%	58,24%	48,75%	64,36%	64,55%	100,00%

In addition, to diversify the themes in the index, the methodology deliberately includes a significant proportion of small-cap companies, distinguishing it from other major indices.

Among the more than 200 constituents, 85 are classified as small caps – defined as companies that fall within the top 98% of free-float market capitalisation in Europe, but not within the top 85%, representing firms with a free-float market capitalisation below approximately €0.9billion.

The inclusion of small caps provides a clear advantage: it enables greater diversification and allows for stronger representation and growth potential across emerging and strategic sectors, such as Logistics, Infrastructure, and Semiconductors. These are areas that are critical to Europe's growth but are not yet fully mature.

Number of large, mid & small cap companies in the Euronext Strategic Autonomy index

As of September 2025 Review











Theme	Large & Mid cap	Small cap
Aerospace & Defence	6	5
Financials	49	16
Energy Production & Distribution	16	4
Semiconductors	7	6
Pharma & Chemicals	11	11
Logistics	7	9
Infrastructure	19	25
Food Security	8	3
Software	4	2
Power Grid & Equipment	9	4
Total	136	85

Another advantage of including small-cap companies is that they tend to be more focused on their local markets than large-cap firms. As a result, the strategy naturally promotes greater

strategic autonomy and a stronger alignment with domestic economic development compared to one dominated by large caps.

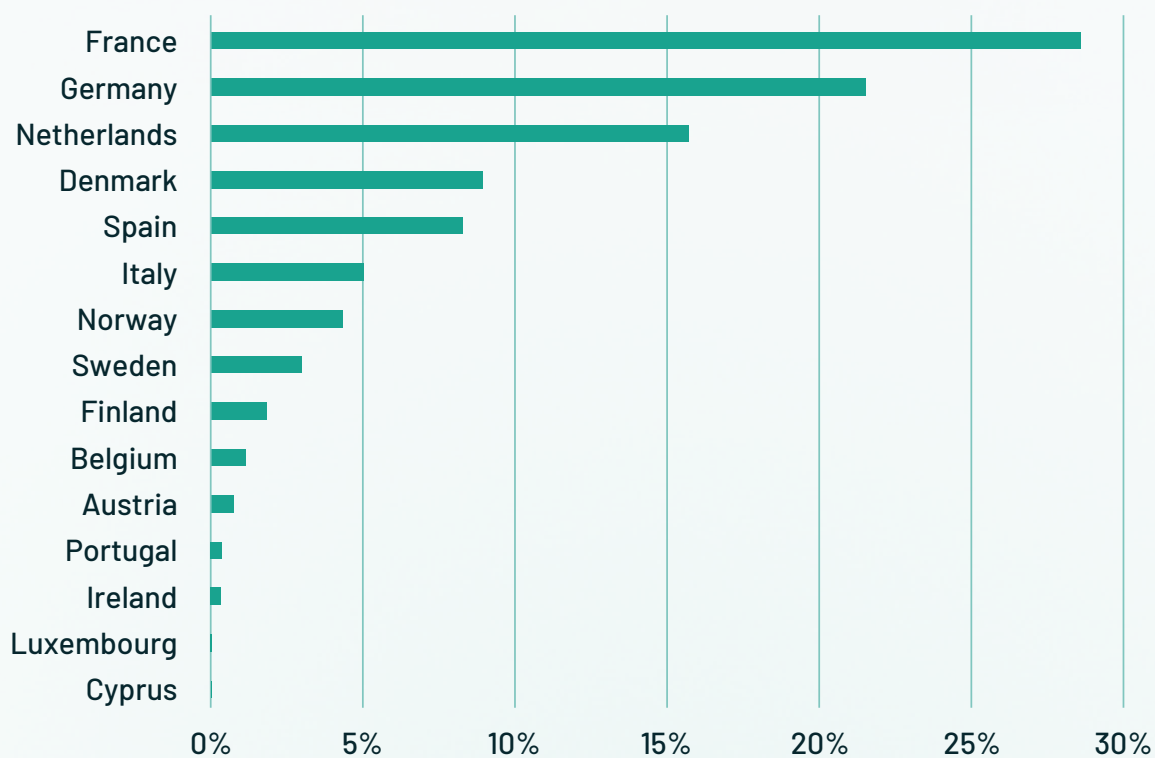
Top 10 companies in the index

as of 21/10/2025

Name	Weight	Thematic
 SAP	9.1%	Software
 ASML	8.6%	Semiconductors
 DANONE <small>ONE PLANET. ONE HEALTH</small>	5.4%	Food Security
 Schneider Electric	4.4%	Power Grid & Equipment
 DSV	3.1%	Logistics
 AIRBUS	3.1%	Aerospace & Defence
 novo nordisk®	3.0%	Pharma & Chemicals
 TotalEnergies	2.9%	Energy Production & Distribution
 Iberdrola	2.7%	Energy Production & Distribution
 SAFRAN	2.7%	Aerospace & Defence

Geographical breakdown by weight

as of 21/10/2025

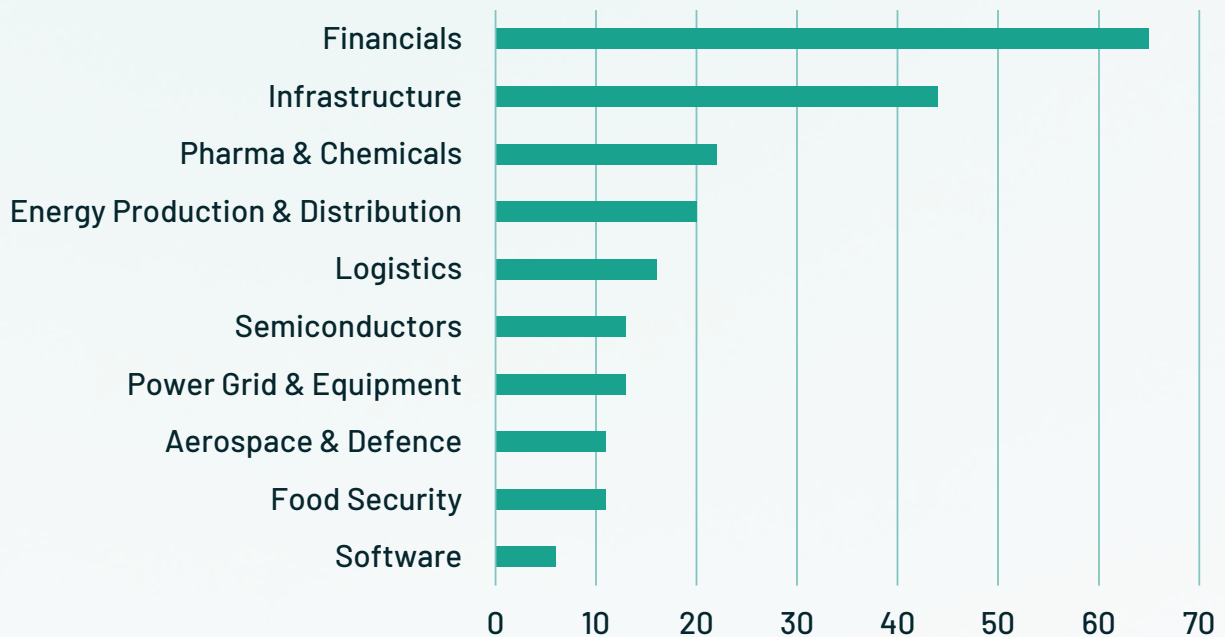


Key companies driving European independence are spread across the continent, not just in the biggest

economies. They are found in most European countries, highlighting broad, strategic resilience.

Thematic breakdown in number of companies

as of 21/10/2025





























The index spans many industries, with themes crossing multiple sectors. Despite a tilt towards financials and infrastructure, it stays diversified by selecting companies that earn at least 50% of their revenue from a single theme.

Each theme presents its own challenges and needs in terms of constituent selection. For companies in the aerospace and defence theme, the methodology takes a more specialist focus. This deprioritises more diversified firms that contribute to defence and security at a smaller scale.

Companies falling under aerospace and defence are tightly linked to strategic autonomy, standing to be direct beneficiaries of the widespread intention of European governments to increase their defence budgets. Defence and security companies are also well-positioned for exporting to other countries that are undergoing a similar transformation.

Top 3 companies in each theme

Software		 HEXAGON	
Aerospace & Defence		 SAFRAN	
Food Security			
Semiconductors			
Power Grid & Equipment			
Logistics			
Energy Production & Distribution			
Pharma & Chemicals			
Infrastructure			
Financials			

The scope of these themes requires data analysis on a similarly ambitious scale. Given the multitude of themes and complexities within each theme, index teams need to constantly evaluate both their modes and the quality of data sources to ensure that the index weighting stays in line with the long-term trends it is tracking.

This is best exemplified in supply chain analysis, where the complexity of global supply chains that were built up over years and decades can be very hard to map. This is exacerbated by the opacity of many companies in providing information on their exact operations.

The index will be semi-annually with all companies within the Euronext Developed Europe Total Market index under consideration. The review is designed to ensure that the index remains fully aligned with Europe's strategic autonomy goals and captures new entrants to each theme.

Use cases

The EESAP index has a wide range of use cases and functions in the market. Key among the target customers are asset managers seeking to offer clients exposure to Europe's move to strategic autonomy.

The index diversification can attract asset managers that seek to mitigate their risk exposure. By covering ten themes with equal weighting, the index could act as a hedge against geopolitical shocks that might harm broader equity markets. For example, in a scenario in which energy supply shocks impact general markets, the defence and technology themes may offset losses.

An increasingly prelevant theme of ESG investment among asset managers is alignment with key governmental agendas, such as the Paris Agreement to limit global warming. The EESAP index fits into these strategies enabling investors to align investment with governmental policies around sovereignty, resilience and sustainability.

This also makes it attractive to pension funds and sovereign wealth funds, which often have mandates to support domestic economic development or policy goals, as well as public investors seeking exposure to EU strategic initiatives.

The index will also appeal to hedge funds that are seeking to isolate the alpha that will be generated by the huge investment going into strategic autonomy. These firms, along with asset managers, will be able to both invest in the index and use it as a benchmark for autonomy-focused strategies.

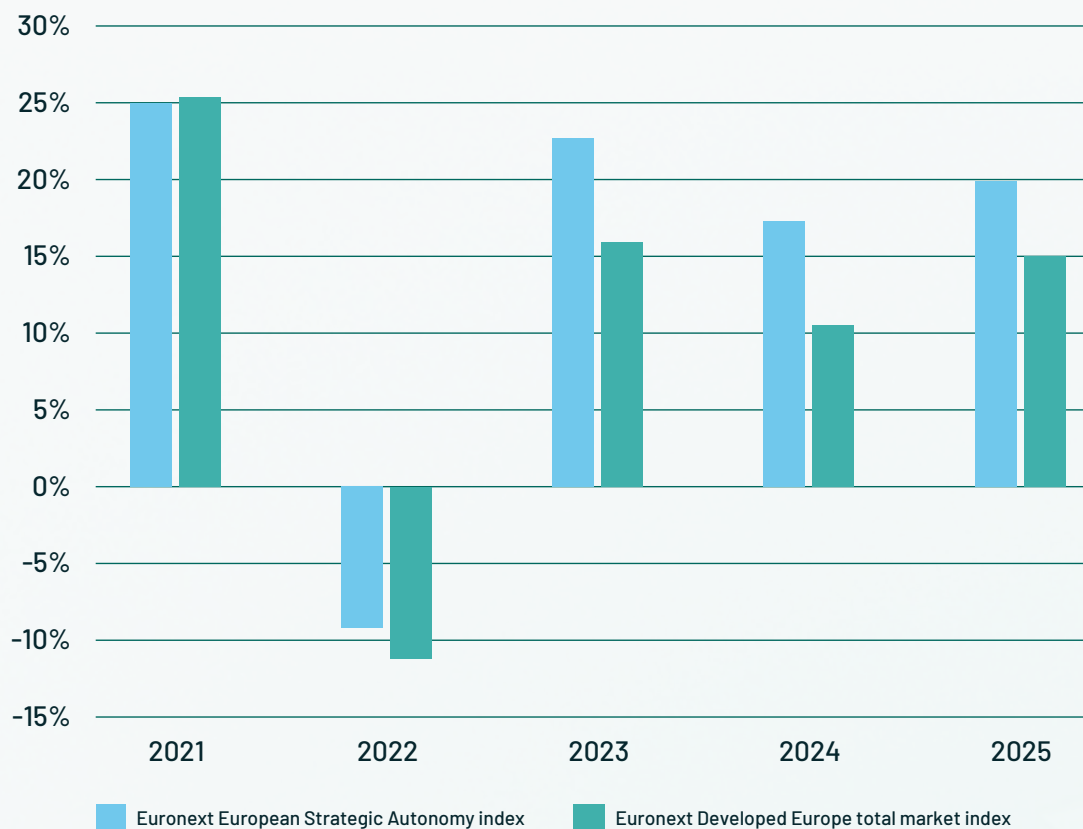


Performance

The Euronext European Strategic Autonomy index has experienced strong returns relative to the Euronext Developed Europe Total Market benchmark. While strategic autonomy is still only in its nascent stages as a trend, its momentum is

already clear. The EESAP index has outperformed the Euronext Developed Europe Total Market (NLIX00001965) index since 2015, with substantial gaps opening up after the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's land invasion of Ukraine.

Performance summary



Year-to-date realised returns on the index have been 20.2%, compared to 14.6% for NLIX00001965. With governments and corporates still very much in the early stage of pursuing strategic autonomy, this has set the tone for years to come.



Conclusion: Investing in the future of Europe

Strategic autonomy represents Europe's defining economic and governmental project for decades to come. The strategy will result in hundreds of billions of euros in investment and reshape national economies.

The Euronext European Strategic Autonomy (EESAP) index captures this transformation in a policy-aligned, diverse benchmark. For institutional investors, EESAP offers a way to gain exposure to and profit from the drive for resilience, sovereignty, and sustainable growth.

By aligning portfolios with the ten themes of autonomy, investors are now able to position themselves at the forefront of one of the most powerful and durable trends of the modern age. As the ecosystem around the EESAP index, and the other indices in the Euronext Strategic Autonomy index family grows and evolves, so too will the opportunities for institutional investors in Europe and beyond.

Tim Rohkemper
Head of Indices

Liz Wright
Head of Index Strategy & Distribution

Robin Gallego
Head of Buy Side Index Structuring

Sabin-Matei Chirpac
Index Structurer

Paul Augis
Index Structurer

CONTACT
index-sales@euronext.com