



BY MARTEN & Cº

INVESTOR

Tritax EuroBox

Real estate | Update | 20 February 2024

Calmer waters

After a tumultuous period of interest rate volatility (with the rapid rise in interest rates reflected in investment yields, causing values to fall), real estate has entered calmer waters. Asset values are stabilising and occupier markets remain supportive of rental growth. Tritax EuroBox (EBOX) is sailing in these waters too, as demonstrated by a portfolio valuation that has changed little and a 30% uplift in earnings that now fully covers its 8.6%-yielding dividend.

The company is well on the way to achieving its aim of reducing its already low-cost debt to a more conservative loan to value (LTV) level of 40% through the disposals of mature assets from its portfolio (with proceeds now totalling €139m). The manager is confident that even after allowing for the sales, the 2024 dividend will be fully covered by earnings. This is because the portfolio has built-in annual uplifts on current leases and substantial reversion potential from the letting up of vacant/development space.

With the macroeconomic environment looking brighter and interest rate cuts slated for this year, the company's 39.4% discount to net asset value (NAV) seems an attractive entry point.

Big box logistics in Europe

EBOX invests in a portfolio of logistics assets in continental Europe, diversified by geography and tenant, targeting well-located assets, within or close to densely populated areas. The strategy aims to capture market rental value growth and deliver secure income and an attractive capital return. EBOX is targeting a total return of 9% per annum over the medium term.

| Sector | Property - Europe |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ticker | EBOX LN |
| Base currency | GBP |
| Price | 50.7p |
| NAV ¹ | 83.6p |
| Premium/(discount) | (39.4%) |
| Yield | 8.6% |

Note 1) Last published NAV was €0.99 at 30 Sept 2023 (GBP equivalent 83.6p using EUR/GBP exchange rate of 0.8553 at 16 Feb 2024, minus the dividend paid in Dec).



Valuations stabilised amid calmer macroeconomic landscape





Fully covered dividend, yielding 8.6%





Wide discount provides attractive entry point







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| Domicile | England & Wales |
|---|-------------------|
| Inception date | 9 July 2018 |
| Manager | Tritax Management |
| Market cap | £409.1m |
| Shares outstanding (exc. treasury shares) | 806.8m |
| Daily vol. (1-yr. avg.) | 1,227.1k shares |
| Pro-forma LTV | 44.0% |

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Click here for EBOX's peer group analysis



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At a glance

Share price and discount

EBOX moved to a discount to NAV during the course of 2022 as the market priced in substantial valuation declines across real estate due to higher interest rates. Its discount to NAV widened to an absurd 50%-plus at one point, but has narrowed slightly and at 16 February 2024 was 39.4%. This is still far too wide in our view, especially considering the company has delivered on key strategic objectives.

Performance over five years

EBOX's NAV has stabilised over the past nine months, following a small drop in September 2022 and a larger drop in March 2023 due to the impact of higher interest rates on property yields and valuations.

Time period 31 January 2019 to 16 February 2024



Source: Morningstar, Bloomberg, Marten & Co

Time period 31 January 2019 to 31 January 2024



Source: Morningstar, Bloomberg, Marten & Co. Note *: GBP NAV based on daily euro exchange rate

| Year ended | Share price total return (%) | NAV total return (%) | AIC peer group share price TR (%) | AIC peer group NAV total return (%) |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 31/01/2020 | (0.3) | 6.0 | 6.3 | 3.0 |
| 31/01/2021 | 21.9 | 9.4 | 9.7 | 8.1 |
| 31/01/2022 | 8.9 | 14.7 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 31/01/2023 | (34.9) | 4.6 | (29.6) | 4.6 |
| 31/01/2024 | (16.9) | (21.6) | (9.3) | (14.2) |

Source: Morningstar, Bloomberg, Marten & Co



Market overview

The macroeconomic landscape that has plagued the real estate sector over the last 18 months seems to be easing, with inflation on a downward trend across most economies and interest rate volatility behind us. While interest rates look to have peaked in the eurozone, the timing of any cuts is still unclear – although European Central Bank (ECB) president Christine Lagarde hinted that a summer reduction was on the cards when holding rates at 4% in January.

A rapid price correction was experienced in the European logistics sector in the second half of 2022 and early 2023, as prime yields (the yield level of properties that are of higher quality and/or in better locations) moved out in step with interest rates from historic lows of around 3.5% to 5%. The worst of the yield expansion seems to have passed, with the current stable interest rate environment now being mirrored in valuations across the sector.

7
6
5
9
9
9
1
1
0
Germany
France
Netherlands
Belgium
Spain
Sweden
Italy
Poland

Figure 1: European prime logistics yields (selected markets)

Source: CBRE, Marten & Co

This was reflected in EBOX's portfolio, which saw a 14.7% fall in values during the period September 2022 to March 2023, but just a marginal decline (0.3%) in the following six months to September 2023. EBOX's manager says that the majority of the valuation decline has happened, but trying to predict when values will rebound remains difficult.

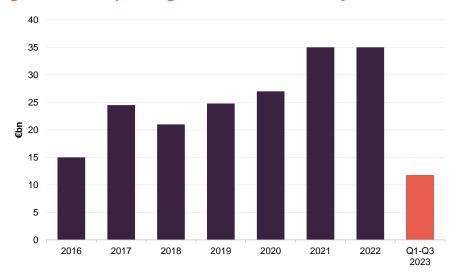
Investor interest remains strong for the right product in the right market, the manager says, as witnessed by the stable yields in Germany. Assets with strong occupier characteristics, such as good sustainability credentials, tenant strength, and located in established distribution hubs, are attracting strong investor demand.



Just under €12bn transacted in first three quarters of 2023 In fact, this has been borne out by EBOX through its disposal strategy (more details on page 9). It has sold three assets – two in Germany and one in Sweden – for a combined €139m and achieved a sub-4.5% yield and a sub-5% yield on the German sales. The manager expects investment activity to grow in 2024, as the macroeconomic landscape improves and liquidity returns to the market.

European logistics investment volumes were subdued in 2023 (we only have data up to the third quarter). Just under €12bn was transacted in the first three quarters of 2023 across France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, according to CBRE.

Figure 2: European logistics investment activity



Source: CBRE, Marten & Co

Occupier market

Whilst there was a welcomed uplift in lettings in the third quarter of 2023, caution amongst businesses continues to feed through to occupier take-up of European logistics space. Take-up levels have, understandably, come off the heights of 2021 and 2022 and are now back to the pre-pandemic norms, as shown in Figure 3.

Data from Savills shows that while quarterly take-up in the majority of European countries was still below their five-year average, Belgium (up 27.3%), Italy (up 14.7%) and Poland (up 11%) were all positive versus their five-year averages. Overall European take-up was 12% below its five-year average.



Q1 2020 Q2 2020 Q3 2020 Q4 2020 Q1 2021 Q2 2021 Q3 2021 Q4 2021 Q1 2022 Q2 2022 Q3 2022 Q4 2022 Q1 2023 Q2 2023 Q3 2023

■Germany ■France ■Netherlands ■Belgium ■Spain ■Italy ■Poland

Figure 3: European logistics take-up by quarter

Source: Savills, Marten & Co

Occupier trends such as near-shoring and sustainability has further to play out Several occupier trends remain intact, and the manager believes these will continue to be a source of demand for years to come. Near-shoring – which has been talked about as an occupier trend since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic – is feeding through to actual take-up, with manufacturing companies shifting their supply chain strategies to avoid the nightmare scenario that they experienced when supply chains were shut down almost overnight. Supply chains are becoming shorter, with some manufacturing moving away from the Far East and China and back to Europe.

As we have discussed in previous notes, many occupiers are evolving their warehouse networks after adopting a 'just-in-case' mentality, as opposed to a 'just-in-time' mindset, to help alleviate any future shocks in the supply chain. This has seen inventory increase, and therefore warehouse space requirements grow.

One occupier trend that the manager expects to gain significance over the next few years is an increased corporate focus on the sustainability of the buildings that they are operating from. Buildings that do not meet sustainability requirements will eventually become obsolete without significant capital expenditure, the manager expects. Large multi-national corporate companies have environmental, social and governance (ESG) targets that they have to meet, which benefits EBOX. The group's portfolio is highly sustainable and the manager is focused on further enhancements with the roll-out of solar panel installations. Solar capacity in the portfolio has increased to 10.3MW from 7.5MW, with a further 9MW in the pipeline. The company has also been awarded the highest-possible industry accolades for the sustainability of its portfolio.



Vacancy trending up, but still at historic lows

Vacancy rate in Europe moved out to 5.2%

The average vacancy rate across European logistics reached 5.2% at the end of the third quarter of 2023, according to Savills. This is up from an all-time low of 3.1% in 2022 but from a historical context is still low. This is also well below the perceived vacancy level where rental growth plateaus – CBRE has observed this level to be around the 8% vacancy level, while Savills has found the tipping point to be around 12%.

8 7 6 5 5 \$ 4 3 2 1

Figure 4: European logistics vacancy rates

Source: Savills, Marten & Co

- UK

0 - 2019

Developments started in 2022 have come onto the market and impacted the vacancy rate. However, new development starts have fallen significantly due to several market conditions, including the cost of finance. This slowdown in construction should help ease the pressure on vacancy.

2021

Barcelona

2022

Poland

Q3 2023

Euro average

Rental growth prospects remain strong

2020

Netherlands

As mentioned previously, the vacancy rate remains comfortably below the tipping point that supports rental growth. This was evident in EBOX's portfolio where it recorded rental growth of 4.5% on a like-for-like basis in the 12 months to 30 September 2023.

The manager expects annual rental growth in the market this year to be in the midsingle digits. However, high-quality buildings in locations of limited supply and robust level of occupier demand will continue to outperform.

Potential corporate activity

EBOX's closest listed peer, abrdn European Logistics Income (ASLI), launched a strategic review into its future in November 2023, with all options on the table.



Although this could result in the company being acquired or even continuing in its current form, one outcome could also be a merger with EBOX.

The two companies have complementary portfolios, with ASLI's portfolio consisting of 26 mid-box and urban logistics assets, located in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain and Poland, valued at €659.75m. The portfolio WAULT is 7.2 years to break and 8.6 years to expiry, with around two-thirds of the rental income subject to full uncapped inflation indexation. The company has a NAV of €411.3m and a market capitalisation of £249m. EBOX's manager Tritax Management is 60% owned by abrdn, which makes a marriage of the two funds more amiable.

A merger of the two companies would result in a sizable portfolio worth over €2.2bn, with a NAV of around €1.2bn and a market cap of around £660m. Cost savings would also be likely. Both companies also trade on similarly wide discounts. There are issues within the ASLI portfolio, however, including vacancy in its French and Spanish portfolios.

Asset allocation

Figure 5: Asset allocation by country (% of income at 30 September 2023)

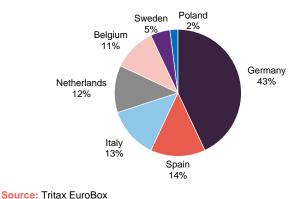
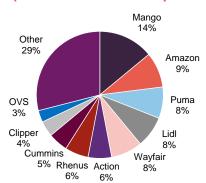


Figure 6: Asset allocation by tenant (% of income at 30 September 2023)



Source: Tritax EuroBox

EBOX had a portfolio of 25 assets worth €1.561.9m at 30 September 2023 (down 2.2% from €1,596.7m at 31 March 2023). They have since sold two assets – detailed below. The portfolio is located across seven European countries.

The portfolio had an annual rental income of €76.3m at the end of September 2023, with a WAULT of 9.6 years (7.9 years to break). The portfolio is let to 35 tenants on a spread of long-term (41% of leases over 10 years in duration) and short-term leases (24% between 0-5 years and 35% between 5-10 years). The majority of leases are subject to some form of annual inflation indexation, with 52% linked to uncapped local consumer prices index (CPI). 16% of leases have a fixed yearly uplift at an average of 0.9%, while 29% have a combination of inflation linkage (capped at 4%) and a fixed uplift element.



Figure 7: EBOX's portfolio (at 30 September 2023)

| Location | Tenant(s) | Purchase price (€m) | Net initial yield (%) | Gross lettable area (sqm) | EBOX investment pillar |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Barcelona, Spain | Mango | 150.0 | 5.0 | 298,809 | Foundation |
| Rome, Italy | Amazon | 118.0 | 5.1 | 158,373 | Foundation |
| Rumst, Belgium | Cummins | 57.4 | 5.6 | 97,636 | Value-add |
| Bornem, Belgium | Alcon-Couvreur, Pharma-Distri Center | 26.0 | 4.4 | 45,850 | Value-add |
| Hanover, Germany | Action Logistics | 86.0 | 4.8 | 92,735 | Growth covenant |
| Bochum, Germany ¹ | SVH Handels, WM Group, Gruber Logistics, Recht Logistik, LUCHS | 37.8 | 4.8 | 37,047 | Value-add |
| Wunstorf, Germany | HAVI Logistics | 27.5 | 4.9 | 16,423 | Foundation |
| Bremen, Germany | Kieserling Spedition + Logistik, THIMM Packaging Systems, Bremer Spirituosen | 57.6 | 4.7 | 57,537 | Value-add |
| Breda, The Netherlands | Abbott Logistics, Samsung | 50.3 | 4.6 | 46,021 | Value-add |
| Strykow, Poland | Arvato, Stalatube, Tillmann Wellpappe | 51.7 | 6.1 | 102,400 | Value-add |
| Nivelles, Belgium | Medi-Market, Associated Retail | 31.0 | 4.8 | 35,847 | Value-add |
| Nuremberg, Germany | Puma | 143.7 | 4.0 | 70,353 | Value-add |
| Lich, Germany | Wayfair | 146.2 | 3.7 | 94,429 | Growth covenant |
| Gothenburg, Sweden | Agility, Nordicon, Vink Essaplast Group | 47.0 | 3.5 | 28,903 | Foundation |
| Turin, Italy | I-Dika | 24.4 | 4.7 | 28,287 | Value-add |
| Gelsenkirchen, Germany | PPG Deutschland, Brand Addition, ETC Group | 32.2 | 3.7 | 16,633 | Value-add |
| Bönen, Germany | Rhenus Warehousing Solutions | 117.9 | 3.5 | 63,753 | Foundation |
| Piacenza, Italy | ovs | 50.0 | 3.8 | 47,668 | Foundation |
| Rosersberg I & II, Sweden | Aprilice | 67.3 | 4.1 | 30,013 | Value-add |
| Roosendaal, The Netherlands | Lidl | 147.9 | 3.5 | 112,018 | Foundation |
| Düsseldorf, Germany | GXO | 76.4 | 3.3 | 36,434 | Value-add |
| Malmö, Sweden ¹ | Atria Group | 21.4 | 5.4 | 24,698 | Value-add |
| Oberhausen, Germany | Rental guarantee | 32.7 | 4.3 | 23,243 | Value-add |
| Total/average | | 1,600.4 | 4.4 | 1,565,110 | |

Source: Tritax EuroBox, Marten & Co. Note 1) EBOX has since sold the property (more details below)

Disposals

Significant changes in the portfolio since our last note six months ago include the sales of three assets (in Hammersbach, near Frankfurt, Germany for €64.6m, Bochum, Germany for €46.8m and Malmo, Sweden for around €28m).

In August 2023, EBOX made the first disposal from its portfolio, selling the multi-let property in Hammersbach for €64.6m, reflecting a net initial yield of 4.45%. The manager says that it had completed its asset management strategy at the building



and took the opportunity to crystalise the corresponding uplift in value (it bought the property for €50.6m in 2019).

At the end of 2023, EBOX announced the sale of two further assets – in Bochum and Malmo. It sold the Bochum asset for €46.8m, a 4.88% net initial yield, after securing a new lease and bringing the property to fully let. Since acquiring the asset in 2018 for €37.8m, the company increased overall rent by 23%. It then announced the sale of its Malmo asset for SEK320m (around €28m) to a private data centre operator for a substantial uplift on the value of the building and a 14% uplift on the acquisition price (including transaction and developer-partner fees).

The circa €139m raised from the sales form part of EBOX's disposal strategy, announced in May 2023, which targeted at least €150m of sales by the end of 2024. The sales proceeds are being used to reduce its debt level to a more conservative LTV level in the low-40% and to maintain its investment grade rating. EBOX has a very low-cost (1.3% at 30 September 2023), but sizable debt pile (€777.5m – made up of a €500m senior unsecured green bond, a €200m US private placement, and €77.5 drawn from its revolving credit facility (RCF)). Some of the sales proceeds could also fund higher-returning asset management opportunities from within the existing portfolio, if they were accretive to earnings, the manager says.

The assets that have been sold to date, and future sales identified by the manager, are properties where asset management plans have completed (and therefore further rental income growth is limited) or assets that the manager believes display some risk — either on the part of the tenant or the building (if it did not meet sustainability credentials and would be too costly to implement). It could also mean exiting entire countries where the manager feels that it would be difficult to achieve critical mass in that country.

Rental growth potential

Near- and long-term asset management initiatives could add

substantial income

Plans to sell at least

end of 2024

€150m of assets by the

EBOX's portfolio had a reversion potential of 17.6% at 30 September 2023, which equates to €13.4m of additional annual rental income if vacant space was let and assets were relet at their estimated rental values (ERVs). This is on top of the 4.5% like-for-like rental growth achieved within the portfolio in the year to 30 September 2023.

Some of this has been secured with the lettings at its Turin development (which is now fully let) and the first phase of its Rosersberg development (which was secured at a 3% premium to the ERV as at September 2023 and 20% above the underwritten level). The remaining vacant space in the portfolio is at the second phase of Rosersberg and in Strykow, Poland.

The company's development in Oberhausen, Germany, which is due to complete in the third quarter of 2024, is expected to produce an annual rental income of €2.0m when fully let.

On top of this, further rental uplifts will be captured through inflation-linked leases. In the year to 30 September 2023, inflation indexation accounted for a €2.3m uplift in rent. The manager predicts that over the next three years it could capture an additional €4.3m of rent from inflation uplifts, based on Oxford Economics' average inflation forecast of 1.7% per year.



Longer-term, two further potential extensions exist at its Wunstorf and Nuremberg assets in Germany. The manager is in discussions with the tenant at it Wunstorf asset regarding a 10,000 sqm extension and would expect the development to come with a yield on cost (income divided by development cost) of 7%. It has also held talks with Puma regarding a 42,000 sqm extension at its global logistics centre in Nuremberg, along with an associated lease extension.

Top three assets

We looked at EBOX's individual assets in detail in our last annual overview note published six months ago (see page 16 for a link). Here we detail the company's top three assets by value.

Barcelona

Purpose-built in 2016, the property is the global distribution centre for fashion retailer Mango. It was acquired in September 2018 for €150m and is the biggest asset in EBOX's portfolio. In 2021, the company funded a 93,931 sqm extension on the adjacent plot of land, at a cost of €31.5m, which completed in November 2022 bringing the building size to almost 300,000 sqm, including mezzanine space. The property is let on a 30-year full repairing and insuring (FRI) lease that commenced on 20 December 2016, with a tenant break option in 2036, 2039 and 2042. The rent is subject to annual upward-only indexation.

It is located 25km north of Barcelona and is directly accessible from the motorway network, with Barcelona's port and airport within a 25-minute drive. Barcelona is one of the most supply-constrained logistics markets in Europe, with strong occupier demand. There are no sites available in the greater Barcelona area – due to the landscape – for large-scale logistics development, and the manager says there is downside protection in that similar adjacent buildings are leased at higher rents. In the extreme event of the tenant going bust, the property can be sub-divided into up to four units and re-let.

Mango accounts for 14% of EBOX's rental income, as at 30 September 2023. Two months of rent is held in deposit and EBOX has a bank guarantee for 10 months' rent, which extends to 24 months if certain covenants are not met.

Nuremberg and Lich

EBOX acquired the Nuremberg and Lich properties in the same transaction with its development partner Dietz for a combined €290.9m, reflecting a combined net initial yield of 3.9%.

The 70,353 sqm property in Nuremberg is let to global sportswear manufacturer and retailer Puma. It serves as the European distribution headquarters for Puma, which signed a 15-year lease on the property in April 2020. The property produces an annual rental income of €5.78m, with the lease subject to annual indexation of 100% of German CPI, following a four-year indexation holiday from the start of the lease.

The property is carbon neutral, built to LEED Gold standard, benefits from certified green energy procurement, and has a roof-mounted photovoltaic system generating up to 1.5MW of electricity. The 20-hectare site comes with extension potential for an additional 42,000 sqm of floorspace. The asset is categorised as a foundation

Figure 8: Barcelona



Source: Tritax EuroBox

Figure 9: Nuremberg



Source: Tritax EuroBox



Figure 10: Lich



Source: Tritax EuroBox

asset by EBOX, due to the low-risk nature of the income. The manager is in discussions with Puma regarding the 42,000 sqm extension to their global logistics centre, together with an associated lease extension.

The 94,429 sqm distribution unit in Lich, near Giessen, is let to online furniture retailer Wayfair. The distribution centre plays a key role in Wayfair's European operations, which is focused on Germany and the UK. It signed a 15-year lease on the property that commenced in May 2021 at an annual rent of €5.6m, linked to German CPI, following a three-year indexation holiday at the commencement of the lease. The property is certified to DGNB Gold standard, and it benefits from a range of operational energy reduction measures. The roof has the capacity to support the installation of solar PV panels, and discussions with the tenant concerning the installation underway.

Performance

EBOX's NAV has stabilised over the past nine months, following a small drop in September 2022 and a larger drop in March 2023 due to the impact of higher interest rates on property yields and valuations. The NAV had made steady progress from launch, and grew significantly with the deployment of the proceeds of equity raises in March and September 2021. EBOX's NAV is quoted in euro, and the NAV in Figure 11 is the sterling NAV based on the daily exchange rate.

Figure 11: EBOX performance over five years



Source: Morningstar, Bloomberg, Marten & Co. Note *: GBP NAV based on daily euro exchange rate



Peer group comparison

Figure 12: UK-listed property companies focused on logistics

| | Market cap (£m) | Premium/ (discount) (%) | Yield (%) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Tritax EuroBox | 409 | (39.4) | 8.6 |
| abrdn European Logistics Income | 249 | (30.3) | 7.9 |
| SEGRO | 10,427 | (4.1) | 3.2 |
| Tritax Big Box REIT | 3,002 | (18.5) | 4.4 |
| LondonMetric Property | 2,057 | (6.9) | 5.2 |
| O Manain auton Mantan O O- | | | |

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Click here for an up-todate comparison of EBOX's peer group Most property companies investing in European logistics are unlisted funds or subsidiaries of larger groups. The listed peer group we have assembled consists of EBOX's closest peer, abrdn European Logistics Income (ASLI); SEGRO, which owns a mixture of 'big box', urban and industrial space, about a third of which is located in continental Europe; Tritax Big Box; and LondonMetric Property. The latter two are UK-focused.

Figure 13: Peer group analysis – performance over six months, one year and three years

| | 1-year NAV total return (%) | 3-year NAV total return (%) | 5-year NAV total return (%) | 1-year price total return (%) | 3-year price total return (%) | 5-year price total return (%) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tritax EuroBox | (21.6) | (9.0) | 8.2 | (16.9) | (41.1) | (28.4) |
| abrdn European Logistics Income | (10.1) | (8.8) | 18.9 | (13.0) | (40.8) | (26.3) |
| SEGRO | (2.7) | 18.4 | 58.1 | 10.0 | (0.1) | 56.0 |
| Tritax Big Box REIT | 3.6 | 12.9 | 40.3 | 12.2 | 1.6 | 47.0 |
| LondonMetric Property | (7.8) | 32.5 | 49.3 | 8.5 | (3.0) | 27.7 |

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: performance calculated to 31 January 2024



Dividend

EBOX paid 5 euro cents per share in dividends in its financial year to 30 September 2023, in line with the previous two years. The dividend was 110% covered by adjusted earnings per share, and the group has now recorded five consecutive quarters of dividend cover (including the final quarter of its 2022 financial year).

5 euro cent per share 1 25 1.25 1.25 5.51 4.61 4.24 4.16 2 1.0 1.25 3.25 1.0 1.25 1.25 1.1 0.4 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 ■1st ■2nd ■3rd ■4th ■Adjusted earnings per share

Figure 14: EBOX dividend history

Source: Tritax EuroBox, Marten & Co

Adjusted earnings per share was boosted 30% to 5.51 euro cents by a combination of higher rental income and lower operational costs (including a reduced investment management fee), together with full-year contributions from the completion of building extensions and developments. The manager states that it expects the full-year 2024 dividend to continue to be covered by adjusted earnings, even with the loss of earnings from any sales.

Premium/(discount)

Having been trading at a healthy premium to NAV throughout 2021, EBOX's shares moved to trading a discount during the course of 2022 as the market priced in substantial valuation declines across the real estate sector due to higher interest rates. Its discount widened to an absurd 50%-plus at one point, but has narrowed slightly and at 16 February 2024 was 39.4%. This is still far too wide, especially considering the company has delivered on key strategic objectives, including growing income/earnings to cover its dividend, reducing costs (its EPRA cost ratio fell to 24.2% from 29.5% over the year to 30 September 2023), and maintaining balance sheet strength. On top of this, values appear to have stabilised in the European logistics sector, which continues to display strong occupier fundamentals.

-8 -18 -28 -38 -48 -58 Jan/19 Jul/19 Jul/22 Jan/23 Jul/23 Jan/24 Jan/20 Jul/20 Jan/21 Jul/21 Jan/22 - Premium/(discount) 3-month rolling average

Figure 15: Premium/(discount) over five years

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

The company's website is tritaxeurobox.co.uk

Investment in European logistics assets to capture market rental growth

Fund profile

EBOX invests in and manages a portfolio of logistics assets in continental Europe, diversified by geography and tenant, targeting well-located assets in established distribution hubs close to densely populated areas, with the aim of capturing market rental value growth.

EBOX was launched on 9 July 2018 after raising gross proceeds of €339.3m (£300m) at initial public offering (IPO). Following full deployment of the capital into a portfolio of nine continental European logistics real estate assets, the company successfully raised additional gross proceeds of €135m (£119.1m) in 21 May 2019, €230m in March 2021, and €250m in September 2021.

EBOX's shares are traded on the premium segment of the London Stock Exchange, with both a sterling and euro quotation. These are the same class of shares and trading line, are fully fungible, and have no impact on overall liquidity of the stock. On 1 October 2021, the group was added as a constituent of the FTSE 250 index. To enhance equity returns, the company borrows money, with a medium-term target loan to value of 45% of gross assets and a maximum limit of 50%.

The manager – Tritax Management

The company's manager is Tritax Management, part of the Tritax Group, which manages more than £7.8bn of assets (including EBOX), consisting of more than 50m sq ft. Tritax has a particular specialisation in the acquisition and management



of logistics portfolios, most notably through Tritax Big Box REIT, a UK FTSE 250 REIT launched in December 2013. Tritax is headquartered in London with over 60 professionals and is authorised and regulated by the FCA. In 2021, abrdn acquired a 60% interest in Tritax Management. As part of the deal, Tritax now leads abrdn Real Estate's global logistics team.

In September 2022 the company appointed a new fund manager, with Phil Redding taking over from Nick Preston. Phil joined Tritax in November 2020 as director of investment strategy. Prior to that, he spent 25 years at SEGRO Plc, holding the position of chief investment officer from 2011, and was appointed to the board as an executive director in 2013.

In 2022, EBOX amended its investment management agreement with Tritax Reduction in the base Management. The key change was a reduction in the base management fee (as displayed in Figure 16). This resulted in a management fee reduction of €2.4m between full-year 2022 and 2023.

management fee

| Effective 1 August 2022 | | Previously | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| NAV value (€) | Fee (%) | NAV value (€) | Fee (%) |
| < €1bn | 1.00 | < €0.5bn | 1.30 |
| > €1bn | 0.75 | > €0.5bn < €2bn | 1.15 |
| | | > €2bn | 1.00 |

Previous publications

QuotedData has previously published five notes on EBOX. You can read them by clicking the links below or by visiting our website.

Figure 17: QuotedData's previously published notes on EBOX

| Title | Note type | Publication date |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Boxing clever | Initiation | 23 November 2020 |
| Full throttle | Update | 25 May 2021 |
| Fast-tracked | Annual overview | 27 January 2022 |
| Opportunity knocks | Update | 18 November 2022 |
| Optimism returns | Annual overview | 12 July 2023 |
| Source: Marten & Co | | |





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