Dear working group members;

I worry about my and my husband's financial future in the Netherlands. I have heard so many stories about how expats in other European countries have lost their ability to use a local bank, and am waiting for the shoe to drop here, too. We have lived in the Netherlands for five years, and though my husband is on a knowledge migrant visa, he works for a local company, and for the foreseeable future, this will be our home. FATCA has complicated our lives and put us at the mercy of our financial institutions, as it has with many other expats as well.

Thanks to selling our home in the US last year, we now have a savings account just a tiny amount over $10,000. So, for the first time, I have to do an FBAR. I am a busy person, not financially savvy, and I don't have the time, nor the desire, to dive down the rabbit hole of US tax websites to find out exactly how you fill one of these out, and I am not looking forward to paying lots of money to a professional to do it for me. However, if I don't do an FBAR, or miss the deadline, the penalties are draconian. It is these sorts of issues that have led me to make the following suggestions:

First of all, I would like to see an exception created for a same country exception regarding foreign bank accounts under FATCA. This way, as an American in The Netherlands, my accounts here are not considered foreign to myself or my local bank under FATCA guidelines.

Secondly, please change the tax code so that only US residents have to pay taxes. Filing in the Netherlands and the US is not only quite time consuming, but also incredibly expensive in tax preparation fees. Thne after that, there is the puzzle of the FBAR.

I appreciate the time you are taking to accept these comments and I hope that you can make some positive changes for Americans who live abroad. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Desjardins

