

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2010

Urs Widmer
CEO, AXA Bank in Switzerland
General-Guisan-Strasse 40
Postfach 357 PO Box 357
8401 Winterthur

Dear Mr. Widmer:

As Co-Chairs of the Americans Abroad Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives, we have been contacted by U.S. citizens living abroad who have been denied accounts, or had existing accounts closed, with U.S. and foreign banks, often with U.S. banking regulations, including Patriot Act provisions, cited as cause. We have contacted the U.S. Treasury Department, under the current and previous administrations, and were assured on various occasions that no current federal banking laws or regulations preclude Americans living abroad access to foreign or domestic financial services. Despite these assurances, this continues to be a problem for Americans overseas.

We were particularly interested to receive the attached AXA Bank application form from an American working in Switzerland, which states that AXA Bank does not offer accounts to U.S. citizens (original and translated versions are attached). It would appear that other foreigners can open an account with proper work permits and residency status, but Americans are denied outright. We are very interested to know what has prompted AXA Bank to specifically deny accounts to U.S. Citizens, including any current U.S. banking regulations that prompted such a decision.

We have requested a hearing from the Financial Services Committee, of which Rep. Maloney is a senior member, to look at this problem and determine what is at issue. Any insight that you could provide us from the perspective of a foreign bank that does not allow Americans to open accounts, possibly including your own testimony at a future hearing, would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please have your staff contact Kristina Spiegel in Rep. Maloney's office at kristina.spiegel@mail.house.gov or Paul Callahan in Rep. Wilson's office at paul.callahan@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

AXA Bank demande d'ouverture de compte en ligne - bienvenue!

Vous êtes déjà client d'AXA Bank? Pour toute autre prestation ou demande d'ouverture de compte supplémentaire, il vous suffit d'envoyer un message par le biais de la banque en ligne ou d'appeler notre Contact Center au 0848 292 111.

Quelques minutes suffisent pour ouvrir un compte auprès d'AXA Bank:

- 1^{ère} étape: vous choisissez un type de compte
- 2^{ème} étape: vous saisissez vos données personnelles
- 3^{ème} étape: Imprimez vous-même votre demande d'ouverture de compte ou demandez à la recevoir par courrier.

Ouvrir un compte

Qui peut ouvrir un compte auprès d'AXA Bank?

- Personne physique
 - domiciliée en Suisse
 - 18 ans minimum
 - citoyen suisse ou en possession d'un livret pour étrangers B ou C
- **AXA Bank n'offre pas de compte aux citoyens américains**

Remarque: par souci de lisibilité, seule la forme masculine a été retenue; elle désigne toutefois implicitement les personnes des deux sexes.

AXA Bank – Application for opening an on-line account – Welcome!

Are you already a customer of AXA Bank? For any other service or application to open an additional account, you need only to send a message through the on-line bank or to call our Contact Center at 0848 292 111.

It takes only a few minutes to open an account with AXA Bank:

- Step one: Choose the type of account.
- Step two: Enter your personal information
- Step three: Print out your request to open an account or ask to receive it by mail.

Opening an account

Who can open an account with AXA Bank?

- A natural person
 - with residence in Switzerland
 - at least 18 years of age
 - a Swiss citizen or a holder of the B or C card for foreigners

- **AXA Bank does not offer any accounts to U.S. citizens**

Note: for the sake of legibility, only the masculine form has been used; however, it implicitly designates persons of both sexes.