



French Tax Update

A Guide For UK Expats In
France

Wealth Tax Reforms

In September 2017, the French Government announced that a number of tax reforms, including significant tax cuts for investment assets and income, would come into effect on 1st January 2018. The most significant change was to wealth tax, where the scope has now been limited to real estate assets.

Despite this concession, France remains a complex and potentially costly jurisdiction for expats to reside. You are subject to a flat rate of 30% of the growth of your assets in any one year in taxes.

Fortunately, as an expat there are a number of investment vehicles available to you. However, not even Nostradamus could predict which solution would be best for you at this point. But it's safe to say without getting your house in order, your future could hold an unwanted, and unnecessary tax bill.





Thankfully our expert financial planners are experienced in all aspects of French legislation and are on hand to ensure you remain compliant whilst paying as little tax as possible.

As a completely independent advisory firm, Skybound have access to a number of French compliant solutions including Assurance Vie (Life Assurance) products which offer unrivalled tax concessions and succession planning for expats living in France.





Product Focus: Assurance Vie

The Assurance Vie is one of, if not the most tax effective life insurance wrapper, offering unrivalled tax concessions. This type of financial planning product has become so successful in France, that has attracted up to 1.5 trillion Euros of investment from some 24 million retail investors.

The reason behind the popularity of the Assurance Vie is the un-rivalled reduction of taxation of any gains over an 8 year timescale.





Finding The Perfect Solution For You Can Be Tricky. However, We Can Tell You This; If You Speak To A Skybound Advisor Now, You Will Not Pay Any Tax That You Don't Need To.



An attractive feature of this vehicle, is that the time scale to benefit from tax reductions will begin from that very day you open an account. This presents a real incentive to start the investment sooner rather than later, even if you need to commence with a lower premium at first just to start the clock ticking.

If you are an international expat in France or a Frontalier working in Switzerland, an International Assurance Vie may be an option for you, as it allows greater flexibility.

This solution will generally be domiciled outside of France but will comply with French Assurance Vie rules and reporting. This could be favourable if for example: You require your investment to be in a currency of your choice or would like the ability to invest in global assets. This savings vehicle also provides many other benefits ranging from IHT reductions to flexible gifting options.



What Does Offshore Savings Mean?

Put simply it means placing your savings in a jurisdiction different to where you currently reside. This is usually done to reduce the tax liability on your savings:

At Skybound we know that tax matters are complicated enough without considering cross jurisdiction tax legislation and our aim is to make sure you don't pay any tax that you don't have to.

We will talk you through the potential benefits of a number of financial planning strategies such as:

Investing in tax beneficial jurisdictions - We can help you to choose the most favourable countries for your investments. By this we mean we will help ensure that your tax liability is reduced, therefore allowing you to keep more of your money.

Investment choices and flexibility - There are many different investment options open to you, and our trained advisors will listen carefully to your financial goals. Once we understand what you want to achieve, we will look at a savings plan to help you realise these goals. We will look at flexible products that have potential to give you the best return on your investment.

A little relief - Without professional advice, you could be missing out on vital tax reliefs that could save you money. Our advisors will assess your circumstances and help you to take advantage of any tax breaks available to you.

Why Choose Skybound?

As global financial planning experts, we are always looking for ways to ensure you are able to keep more of your money, and that it continues to work as hard for you as you did to earn it in the first place.

Skybound is part of a group of several organisations, each of which is regulated in the respective jurisdictions where they are based. With specialist Pensions and Repatriation divisions, we are perfectly placed to help you wherever your expat journey may take you.





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Securing Your Future.

Wherever You Are Today.

We exist to educate and guide you through the important decisions required today, to ensure you benefit from the freedom of tomorrow.