

Geneva Group International

PG Meeting “Private Equity and International Wealth Management”

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(Anthony & Cie)

Case study of “a lucky life”

A grandfather dies. He was in his nineties. He lived in Europe when he was young. He fought in the Second World War and had children in India, Germany which he declared as his. He was originally British. After the war he was extremely successful trading metals in Eastern Europe he married a Romanian having also a child which he declared. He divorced that person and decided to settle in the United States to trade for a while, remarried a us national having yet another child, unfortunately the marriage didn't work so he left the USA with a green card which he never cancelled properly. By this time he had made considerable money. He decided to try to live in Switzerland. Whilst there he had an affair and had yet another child which he declared. This Swiss child decided later to live in Marbella (Spain). He fell in love with an Italian had another child so he bought a house in Tuscany. He then bought houses for all his children and sent money to India for his child to buy a home. His Italian girlfriend also had a second child in Tuscany. Each child lives where they were born become an adult in their respective country except for Switzerland. They marry a local person.

The grandfather continues to buy property in France. He buys a flat in London, Miami, St Moritz and suddenly dies whilst living back in London. He is single his ex-wives and mistresses are all dead but all his children are alive. He leaves a will giving all his estate equally to each child. In his lawyers office is a letter. It may only be opened by his German child. The child a son Hans in tears opens the letter. He is instructed to go to Zurich and is given a numbered account. He is now a man in his 60s with children happily married. In the letter he is told to share what he finds with all his brothers or sisters from his father.

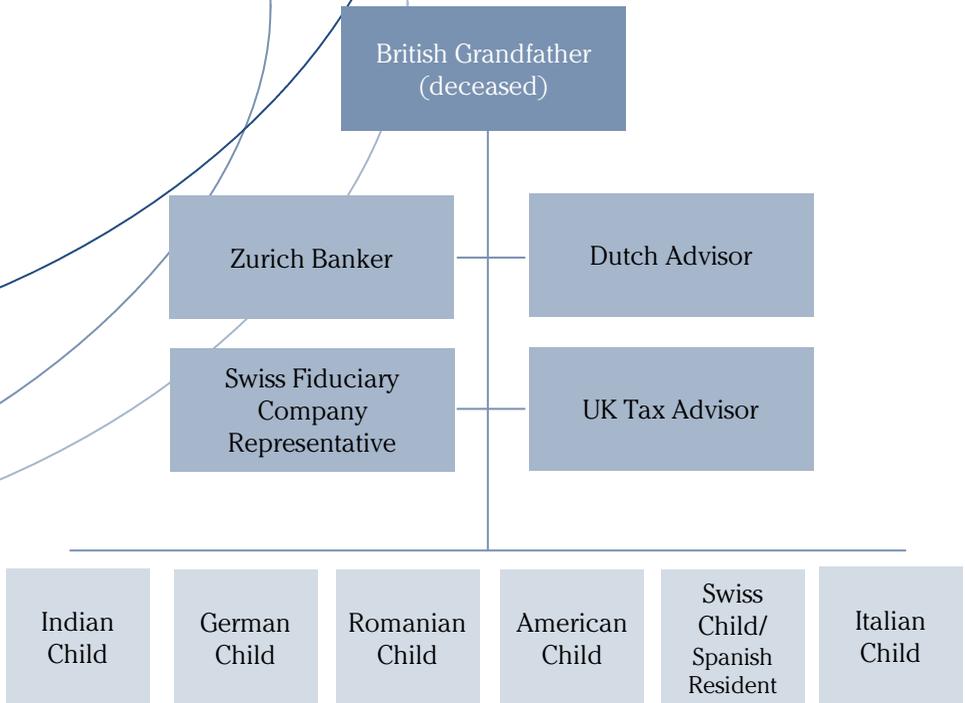
He meets the bank manager who tells him there is 50 million euros in investments plus 10 million diamonds and 10 million gold in a safe deposit. In addition there is a disappeared Renoir from the Second World War. Worth a considerable amount. Hans is perplexed he doesn't know where to start or what to do. In the will all assets must be declared equally.

During his life, Hans sets up a Panamanian company carrying out international trading with South America. He holds it by Bearer Bonds in his Swiss bank. The company has 50 million in cash in a bank account and is operated by a Swiss fiduciary company. He has a Dutch company in the Netherlands carrying out private equity investments owned by a Netherland Antilles company and uses a Dutch law firm as their advisors, once again held in Bearer bond in the Swiss bank. This company has 50 million in a bank account in Holland and on his death; the lawyers have been instructed to liaise with Hans to liquidate the company and sends the proceeds to the Bearer bond Company in Panama managed in Switzerland. In the Netherlands, he has also income from intellectual ownership because he has invented a software program in all smartphones in the world as a patent. Clearly Switzerland is undeclared assets. Hans comes to you for help.

Can you advise him? Do you have obligations to report to the authorities what he tells you? How does he protect the assets and all his family? What do you do? What other questions?

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Characters



1st step: 7 March 2014

In Milan, the aim is to brainstorm, discussing the issues and problems that are apparent and that need dealing with concerning the case study.

A list of questions will result from this open discussion.

2^d step: 4 April 2014

During ITPG Edinburgh (+ North American GGI conference), we present the case study to GGI members indicating the questions raised which started to be addressed in the PG.

3rd step: 17 October 2014

ITPG Cape Town, we deal with tax aspects and other issues resulting from the case study.

We are looking for volunteers to be proactive to build the project together.

Contact

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