Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG Form 8-K July 18, 2011

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

### Current Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): July 18, 2011

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Switzerland (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) **001-32938** (Commission File Number)

98-0681223

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

### Lindenstrasse 8 6340 Baar Zug, Switzerland

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code) **Registrant s telephone number, including area code:** 41-41-768-1080

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

b Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item 8.01. Other Events Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits SIGNATURES EXHIBIT INDEX EX-99.1

### Item 8.01. Other Events.

On July 18, 2011, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, AG ( Allied World ) issued a press release in response to the July 12, 2011 unsolicited acquisition proposal sent by Validus Holdings, Ltd. to Transatlantic Holdings, Inc. ( Transatlantic ). Allied World, GO Sub, LLC and Transatlantic entered into a previously announced agreement and plan of merger, dated as of June 12, 2011, providing for a merger of equals business combination of Allied World and Transatlantic. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

# Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits. (d) Exhibits

Exhibit Number Description

99.1 Press release, dated July 18, 2011.



### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

# ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

Dated: July 18, 2011

By:/s/ Wesley D. DupontName:Wesley D. DupontTitle:Executive Vice President, General Counsel and<br/>Corporate Secretary

- 3 -

## EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number Description

99.1 Press release, dated July 18, 2011.