

TRANSATLANTIC HOLDINGS INC  
Form 425  
December 19, 2011

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, DC 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): December 19, 2011**

**ALLEGHANY CORPORATION**

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

**1-9371**  
(Commission

File Number)

**7 Times Square Tower, New York, New York 10036**

**51-0283071**  
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(212) 752-1356

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 8.01 Other Events**

On December 19, 2011, Alleghany Corporation ( Alleghany ) and Transatlantic Holdings, Inc. ( Transatlantic ) issued a joint press release announcing that they have received notification of early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, applicable to the transactions contemplated by the definitive merger agreement, dated as of November 20, 2011, by and among Alleghany, Shoreline Merger Sub, LLC and Transatlantic.

The foregoing description is qualified in its entirety by reference to the press release, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Document Designation
99.1	Press Release, dated December 19, 2011.

SIGNATURE

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.

Dated: December 19, 2011

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION

By: /s/ Christopher K. Dalrymple

Name: Christopher K. Dalrymple

Title: Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release, December 19, 2011.