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CONVERIUM HOLDING AG
Form 6-K
September 16, 2004

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Form 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of September, 2004

CONVERIUM HOLDING AG
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Baarerstrasse 8
CH-6300 Zug
Switzerland
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F
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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No
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If "Yes" is marked, indicate the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- Not Applicable

Converium Holding Ltd, Zug

Zug, Switzerland - September 10, 2004 - Converium comments on Standard &

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Poor's rating decision and announces the placing into run-off of its US operations

Converium to consider changes to its global business plan
Converium is disappointed with Standard & Poor's decision to lower the Company's ratings to BBB from A-. Converium, however, will make all efforts to maintain its franchise. Today's rating action by Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with A.M. Best's recent downgrading of Converium, has required changes to the Company's global business plan which will be communicated shortly. As a consequence of the rating action taken by Standard & Poor's, Converium is reviewing all options with its banks concerning the proposed share issue announced on September 3, 2004.

Converium to place its US operations into run-off
In the wake of A.M. Best's recent downgrading of Converium to B++ the Company will not inject any additional capital into Converium Insurance (North America) Inc. (CINA) as originally planned. The proceeds from Converium's proposed capital raising will be used to strengthen the capitalization of Converium AG, Zurich, and Converium Ruckversicherung AG (Deutschland), Cologne, in order to protect the Company's franchise outside the US. The Company will therefore place its US operations into run-off, i.e. no longer write reinsurance from the US. Converium intends, however, to continue underwriting US exposure from Converium AG, Zurich, and its Bermuda Branch. In this context, Converium is currently discussing fronting arrangements with third parties for the existing Global Aerospace Underwriting Managers Ltd. (GAUM) business written by CINA. Converium is committed to ensure an orderly run-off of the reserves that the Company carries in its North American legal entities and will continue to negotiate commutations and to conduct claims and underwriting audits.

Resignation of Gary Prestia

As a result of these developments Gary Prestia, member of Converium's Global Executive Committee and Chief Technical Officer, has submitted his resignation as president of Converium Reinsurance (North America) Inc. (CRNA). Converium regrets his decision to leave the Company and thanks Mr. Prestia for his valuable contribution to the Company. His successor will be Corcoran Byrne, currently General Counsel of CRNA.

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Enquiries:

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About Converium

Converium is an independent leading global multi-line reinsurer known for its innovation, professionalism and service. Today Converium ranks among the top ten professional reinsurers and employs approximately 850 people in 23 offices around the globe. Converium is organized into three business segments: Standard Property & Casualty Reinsurance, Specialty Lines and Life & Health Reinsurance. Converium's net losses for the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States are capped at US\$ 289.2 million by its former parent, Zurich Financial Services. Converium has minimal A&E exposures. Converium has a "BBB" rating (watch developing) from Standard & Poor's and a "B++" (outlook negative) rating from A.M. Best Company.

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Important Disclaimer

This document contains forward-looking statements as defined in the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. It contains forward-looking statements and information relating to the Company's financial condition, results of operations, business, strategy and plans, based on currently available information. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as 'expects', 'should continue', 'believes', 'anticipates', 'estimates' and 'intends'. The specific forward-looking statements cover, among other matters, the reinsurance market, the outcome of insurance regulatory reviews, the Company's operating results, the rating environment and the prospect for improving results, the amount of capital required and impact of its capital improvement measures, including the restructuring of our U.S. business and its reserve position. Such statements are inherently subject to certain risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and trends could differ materially from those set forth in such statements due to various factors. Such factors include general economic conditions, including in particular economic conditions; the frequency, severity and development of insured loss events arising out of catastrophes, as well as man-made disasters; the outcome of our regular quarterly reserve review, our ability to raise capital and the success of our capital improvement measures, the ability to obtain applicable regulatory approval for our capital improvement measures, the ability to exclude and to reinsure the risk of loss from terrorism; fluctuations in interest rates; returns on and fluctuations in the value of fixed income investments, equity investments and properties; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; rating agency actions; changes in laws and regulations and general competitive factors, and other risks and uncertainties, including those detailed in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the SWX Swiss Exchange. The Company does not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Please note that the company has made it a policy not to provide any quarterly or annual earnings guidance and it will not update any past outlook for full year earnings. It will however provide investors with perspective on its value drivers, its strategic initiatives and those factors critical to understanding its business and operating environment.

www.converium.com

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, thereunto duly authorized.

CONVERIUM HOLDING AG

By: /s/ Dirk Lohmann
Name: Dirk Lohmann
Title: CEO

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By: /s/ Christian Felderer
Name: Christian Felderer
Title: General Legal Counsel

Date: September 16, 2004