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Lloyd's remains the global centre for specialist commercial insurance and reinsurance. And we remain a world leader in marine risk – in 2016 Lloyd's wrote almost £1 billion in cargo premiums, representing just over 8% of the global cargo insurance market . It is a vital industry to support. With about 90% of world trade carried by the shipping industry – it forms the backbone of the global economy.

Today, there are more than 50,000 merchant ships manned by more than a million seafarers who traverse the world's oceans and seas carrying raw materials and goods critical to global supply chains . And the insurance sector remains a key supporter of global marine operations, providing the insurance that safeguards assets being transported around the globe, keeping industries going, and ensuring global economic growth and stability.

Bigger ships and ports routinely handling larger volumes of cargo mean that the insurance sector has seen the average cargo insurance claim grow. To meet the continuously evolving risks of the shipping industry, insurers are looking at new innovative approaches to modelling cargo risks. This includes new technologies, such as telemetry systems, statistical forecasting methods and machine learning techniques which could provide an improved view of cargo exposures, and an enhanced set of solutions for our policyholders.

Key Issues

Protectionism

Risk mitigation

1. Will the manufacturers of autonomous ships, like those planned by Rolls-Royce, adopt the same approach as Volvo, who have committed to accept full liability in the event their self-driving car crashes?
2. Is the rising tide of protectionism significantly impacting the downturn in global trade and, by default, the increase in surplus capacity? How is the shipping industry addressing this?
3. What is the shipping industry doing to mitigate their risks? Are there plans for the shipping industry itself to drive forward the use of advanced technologies to better track their assets / stocks whilst in transit?
4. How does the panel think the insurance industry add value in the future?