

The issue of how clubs approach liability limits for terrorism still needs to be resolved, according to the director of one leading club.

Mike Salthouse, director, of North Insurance Management, manager of the North of England P&I Association says the industry needs to address how it is to approach the demands of owners for higher liability limits for terrorism.

With the Athens Convention set to provide new issues over liability limits Salthouse says that the market is yet to find a solution to the terrorism question.

"Clubs are looking at their liability limits on terrorism, but it is clear that some owners are seeking increased limits," he says. "While there have been some proposed solutions recently we have yet to see any real movement in terms of an industry response."

Indeed, Mr Salthouse says the industry should be looking at speaking with a single voice on its key issues with the International Club as the focal point for its message.

"The issue of the criminalisation of seafarers continues to be an important one for the market and we are hopeful that the European Court of Justice will recognise the arguments in the case which has been brought before it. We have been very keen to support this case and protect shipowners and I think it is a situation where the Group could potentially articulate a common point of view from the clubs."

He adds: "I do not think that as third party liability insurers we can speak for the owners on all matters but there is a need for the clubs to provide a single voice for their interests in certain cases."

Mr Salthouse said the industry has to get the message across to the wider international community of the role of maritime transport in the global economy.

"I do not think there is a great deal of recognition in terms of the importance shipping plays in world trade. Consumers do not look past the goods on the shelves to understand how they have been transported.

"We need to ensure that there is a way in which information can be delivered to the various parties, particularly in times of crisis when the individual company or entity involved is seeking to deal with a range of different demands, other than that of providing information.

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