

BUSINESS IN THE NINETIES

by Rolf Tolle

After having quickly described some of the functions of the Insurance industry, a short description of the future range of activities insurance and reinsurance will entertain will be given.

Looking at today's situation - with particular emphasis on liability coverage - from an Insurer/Reinsurer's point of view. I will address the envisaged development on the technological side as well as in the area of communication and information as described by Mr. Delapalme. To which extent technically very advanced production entities can be sufficiently insured is, of course, dependent on the risk factors involved and a specific paragraph dealing with pollution, liability and latent disease problems will address some aspects.

To what extent the process of decentralization as described by Mr. Delapalme enables the Insurance industry to respond more eagerly and positively to the needs of the commercial client will be discussed.

In conclusion I will show the interdependence between the ability of the Insurance/Reinsurance industry to new unproven risks and the commercial results obtained by this industry in the years to come. It is not only the magnitude of physical damages which worries the industry but the unpredictability of any changes in the Tort System -- in particular in the U.S. -- which might result in hesitation to cover heavy liability risks like pollution, professional indemnity and latent disease.

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