## **Press Complaints Commission**

## By fax: 00 322 287 8398

From the Chairman

John Grant Esq CMG UK Permanent Representative to the European Union 10 avenue d'Auderghem 1040 Brussels Belgium

31<sup>st</sup> August 2004

Chairman Sir Christopher Meyer Tembers of the Commission

Matti Alderson Roger Alton Professor The Lord Chan Edmund Curran Paul Dacre Jane Ennis Mary Francis Dr. Arthur Hearnden Vivien Hepworth Peter Hill Paul Horrocks Charles McGhee Adam Phillips Eve Salomon Dianne Thomoson The Right Rev. John Waine KCVO

> Director Tim Toulmin

I should be most grateful for a piece of advice.

At the PCC we are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of EU Directives on self-regulation. I suppose that this was first triggered by the Market Abuse Directive (MAD) and its implication for financial journalism. There are other things out there as well; and the issue will, I am told, be on the agenda of next month's meeting of European Press Councils.

Discussion of MAD revealed a certain level of ignorance among Commission officials about self-regulation and the PCC's remit. I plan, therefore, to come to Brussels at the right moment to talk all this through with the new Commissioner for Information Society and Media and her staff.

I have two questions: is now a good moment to approach Viviane Reding or should we let her get her feet under the desk; and is there anyone else in the Brussels/Strasbourg firmament, whom you would recommend us to see? I would plan to see Peter Mandelson in any event.

All things being equal, I would like to do this as soon as possible. It would, I hope, also give me the opportunity to see you (and Antony Vinall, who has been helpful on a quite separate matter).

Sir Christopher Meyer

1 Salisbury Square London EC4Y 8JB Telephone 020 7353 1248 Facsimile 020 7353 8355 Textphone for deaf and hard of hearing: 020 7583 2264 email: complaints@pcc.org.uk web site: www.pcc.org.uk

