



Formal ties with Canadian and French regulators

The ABA has formalised its relations with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and the French Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA).

ABA Chairman, Mr Peter Webb, signed cooperation agreements with the CRTC's Chairperson, Mme Françoise Bertrand, and with M Hervé Bourges, President of the CSA. The signing of both documents took place during the 'Youth and the Media, Tomorrow' conference in Paris in April.

Mr Webb said that the cooperation agreements would formalise already close relations between organisations that had similar regulatory responsibilities, interests and concerns.

The cooperation agreements will facilitate channels of communication between the ABA and the CRTC and the CSA respectively, on a range of issues including local content requirements, program content regulation and technological developments such as the implications of digital television,' Mr Webb said.

'It will enable the organisations to better understand and respond to the regulatory challenges of a dynamic broadcasting environment.'

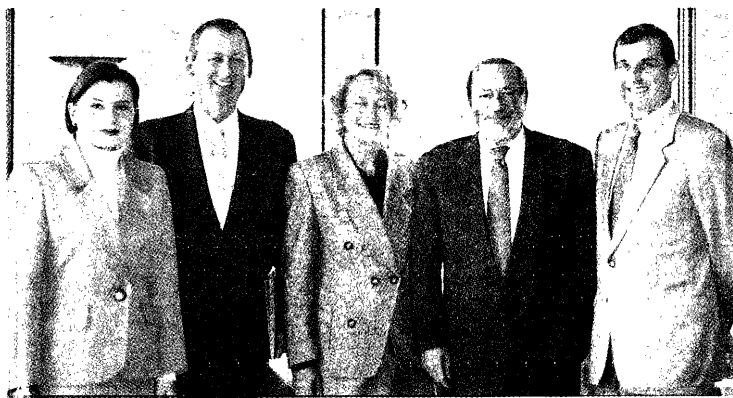
'All national broadcasting regulators need to become more internationally networked, particularly in the field of content regulation. The ABA's efforts to promote international regulatory cooperation have struck a chord all round the world, not least in the Asia-Pacific region,' Mr Webb said.

Mme Françoise Bertrand said, 'Sharing of insights and information on Australian and Canadian developments in broadcasting benefits our respective agencies and I am pleased to confirm our continued collaboration with the signing of the cooperation agreement.'

'It is clear that no world organisation will be able to control the flow or the contents of communication,' said M. Hervé Bourges. 'This is the role of local authorities. But such authorities must be assisted by agreement on universal principles governing the ethos of communications. Agreements such as this



Mme Françoise Bertrand, Chairperson, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission with Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.



Mme Isabelle Mariani, Director Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA); Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman; Mme Helene Fatou, CSA Member; M Hervé Bourges, CSA President; Mr Gareth Grainger, ABA General Manager, Policy and Programs Division.

between world regulatory authorities will assist this goal.'

In addition to its ties with Canada and France, the ABA has close working relations with broadcasting regulators in other countries in Asia and the Pacific, North America and Europe.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

The Commission was established in 1976 with the proclamation of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Act. The Act also transferred jurisdiction over telecommunications from the Canadian Transport Commission to the CRTC.

The CRTC's role is to supervise and regulate Canadian broadcasting and telecommunications systems, balancing the interests of consumers, the creative com-

munity and distribution industry in implementing public policy objectives established by Parliament.

Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel

The CSA replaced the CLNC (Commission Nationale de la Communication et des Libertés) in January 1989.

The CSA is charged with safeguarding the liberty of 'audiovisual communication' with the framework of the requirements set down in the 1989 Media Act. It is obliged to ensure compliance with the doctrine of equal access, to guarantee the independence and impartiality of public broadcasting, to promote free competition, and to monitor quality and diversity in programming, the development of national productions, and the dissemination of French language and culture.