

**Industry Press Releases sent via PCC**

**THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST OR USE ON TAPES BEFORE 0001 HOURS ON SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2002

**SIR CHRISTOPHER MEYER APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF PCC.**

The Press Standards Board of Finance (PRESSBOF), representing the newspaper and magazine publishing industry, announced today that Sir Christopher Meyer, KCMG, currently British Ambassador in Washington, will be the next Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. Subject to the approval of the Foreign Secretary under the rules of business appointments, he is expected to take up the chairmanship in the spring of 2003.

In making the announcement Sir Harry Roche, Chairman of PRESSBOF, said:

"I and my colleagues in the industry are delighted that a person of the calibre of Sir Christopher has accepted PRESSBOF's invitation to take up the position of Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. His distinguished record in the diplomatic service, so clearly evident following the events of 11th September, is widely recognised. In discussions prior to this announcement he has made clear his strong commitment to the successful self-regulation of the press."

"I believe that he will be a worthy successor to Lord McGregor and Lord Wakeham who did so much in establishing the Press Complaints Commission and in building it into the respected organisation which it is today. I must also express the industry's ongoing appreciation of the contribution being made by Professor Pinker as PCC Acting Chairman."

Professor Pinker said:

"I was very pleased to learn of the appointment of Sir Christopher as the next PCC Chairman and I am sure he will make a valuable contribution to the Commission's work." "He will have my full support in his new role and I am confident that equal support will be given by other Commission members and the PCC staff."

Sir Christopher Meyer said:

"I am delighted to have been asked to become the next Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission." "I am a strong believer in the self-regulation in the newspaper and magazine publishing industry." "I look forward to taking on this challenging and exciting task next year." "I do not intend to comment further until then."

*Biographical note:*

Sir Christopher Meyer, KCMG, 58, has had a distinguished career in the UK diplomatic service including Ambassador to Germany and, currently, to the USA. He has first-hand knowledge of the press from spells as Head of News Department and Chief Spokesman at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and as Chief Press Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.