

**IAB IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.****IAB Legal Committee Meeting.**

Last March 1<sup>st</sup>, a meeting of the Legal Committee of the International Association of Broadcasting -AIR- was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where respected specialists and experts from different countries analyzed legal and comparative law issues for radio and television.



*Participants of the IAB Legal Committee Meeting, held in Buenos Aires*

During this meeting, which was moderated by Dr. Paulo Tonet Camargo, President of the Committee, participants exchanged experiences and opinions on issues of concern for broadcasting, such as Copyright and Related Rights in the new digital scenario, OTT services, the role of public-state media, regulations for the transition to digital technology in free, over-the-air TV, among other topics.

**Hearing with the Chief of Cabinet of the National Government, Lic. Marcos Peña.**

At the same time, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, IAB Executive Group with its President, Eng. José Luis Saca, was received at the Government House by Lic. Marcos Peña, Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers of President Mauricio Macri. Miguel De Godoy, President of ENACOM and Jorge Greco, Media Secretary, also participated in the meeting.

IAB welcomed the first amendments to laws N° 26522 on Audiovisual

Communication Services and Nº 27078 on Argentina Digital, as well as the announcement of the creation of a Commission to conduct a review of these laws.

As for Lic. Peña, he highlighted the important role that journalists and free, independent media have in democratic societies.

### **Meeting of MERCOSUR Working Group highlighted the validity of IAB principles.**

On Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first meeting of IAB MERCOSUR Working Group took place, during which a schedule of activities was established in order to strengthen relations with regulatory organizations in the region, as well as with other bodies of this regional agreement.

On the other hand, given the existence in some countries of different legal instruments aimed at controlling the work of the media, as well as in others, initiatives seeking to continue that trend, the Working Group recalled the full validity of IAB postulates and principles:

- The existence of private broadcasting as means of free expression of thought, guarantees the variety of information and opinion, constituting an essential pillar for the preservation and revitalization of Democracy and the Rule of Law.
- Free access of citizens and, consequently, of media to information must be guaranteed and strengthened.
- The practice of journalism must be free, and therefore, news coverage should not be subject to state restrictions.
- While choosing his programming, the broadcaster must act with the widest freedom, taking into account his own criteria and the characteristics and preferences of his audience.
- It is the public who decides the preference for the media according to the credibility they deserve.
- The intervention of Administrative Power must ensure the full functioning of the media without interfering in their contents.
- The implementation of provisions to fight against the concentration of media, as established in Principle 12 of the Declaration of Principles of the American Convention on Human Rights, cannot be used to attack the media through their malicious application, threatening freedom of enterprise and their economic independence, trying to make of broadcasting a docile instrument of political power, curtailing freedom of expression, weakening pluralism and destabilizing the democratic system.

Freedom is the main of the gifts, without its full exercise man cannot find social justice and without social justice Peace can never be achieved.

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Asociación Internacional de Radiodifusión –**AIR-IAB**– International Association of Broadcasting