

## **Message from programme director Prof. Van Calster**

Time has come for me to pass on the directorship of the MEEL programme at the end of the current academic year, 2011-2012.

This year we celebrate MEEL's 10th anniversary. The programme has grown into an international standard of excellence, which Prof. Deketelaere and myself, I believe can be justifiably proud of. I have, for the past four, and the current year, carried the programme's supervision of papers, recruitment, hosting of faculty etc. on my own (evidently with excellent support from cq Ann Groffils, Cheryl Micallef-Borg and Greet Aerts, and with assistance from the visiting faculty). I am pleased with its results, including publication of papers by the students in top journals, and a fantastic spread of alumni over top jobs the world over.

Commitments in other areas (private international law in particular), my involvement in a growing number of externally funded research projects, a growing body of PhD supervision, duties as head of department, teaching commitments elsewhere, and, indeed, my life outside of work, all conspire to make this anniversary year a good moment to pass on the baton. I will continue to teach in the programme and indeed I may eventually have some time to get back to writing more in the energy /environment area.

I am handing the directorship back to Prof. Deketelaere, who will be supported by Bram Delvaux. They will undoubtedly carry the programme through its second decade.

I look forward to continue seeing you in Leuven, both this year and beyond.

Geert Van Calster