

Message from the Commissioner
Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
to the first students graduating from
the Euromaster Measurement Science in Chemistry

I would like to congratulate you all on successfully graduating from the Euromaster "Measurement Science in Chemistry". You should be proud to be among the first graduates from this new degree, and it is appropriate that you enjoy your graduation ceremony today and take stock of the hard work and commitment you have put into obtaining this qualification.

It is very fitting that you receive your degree at the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) in Geel – one of the seven institutes of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. The IRMM celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and enjoys an excellent reputation in the field of measurement science.

I would like to compliment you on your choice of studies. Our society is facing increasing complex and multi-disciplinary challenges, and decision makers are looking ever-more to science and technology to provide answers. As international competition increases, both developed and developing nations realise the strategic importance of technological innovation to sustain competitive industries and a prosperous society.

The underpinning or infrastructural role of advanced measurement capabilities is the bedrock on which technological innovation is built. Every phase of research and development (basic and applied research and exploratory development) and the subsequent manufacturing and commercialisation stages of innovation require measurement tools and related standards. At the commercialisation end of the spectrum, access to accurate and harmonised testing capabilities may mean the difference between success and failure in realising the promise of emerging technologies.

By stepping into this Euromaster study, you also embraced the opportunities of the European Research Area, namely studying and living abroad, interacting with lecturers and students from other countries and undoubtedly broadening your professional and personal horizons. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Euromaster Consortium itself for setting up this innovative Joint Degree Programme.

I am confident that your Euromaster qualification in "Measurement Science in Chemistry" will stand you in good stead, as you enter today's job market.

I wish you all good luck!

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn