

The public defence of the Ph.D in Applied Economic Sciences of Muiz Alia will take place on **Wednesday November 17** at 4.30 pm on the Etterbeek-campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels in Building E, level 0, room 04.

The Ph.D thesis is called 'The impact of environmental factors on the adoption of international financial reporting standards (IFRSs) in the Arab world'. Promoter: Prof. dr. Joël Branson

SUMMARY

The author studies the relationship between the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and environmental factors existing in the Arab world using three approaches. First, the author addresses environmental factors of the Arab countries as drivers for the adoption of IFRSs by these countries. Second, he considers these factors as obstacles for the successful adoption and application of IFRSs using Jordan as a case study. Third, the author uses environmental factors as a basis to judge the neutrality of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The author finds indications that political, legal, professional and cultural factors and past colonialism have affected the decision of the Arab countries to adopt IFRSs. In his case study for Jordan, he discovers that the adoption and application of IFRSs is hampered largely by obstacles from the business and the educational environment. With respect to the neutrality of the IASB, the author finds evidence that the environmental factors of developing countries in general and Arab countries in particular are not considered adequately by the IASB.