

**Mr. Taoufik BACCAR, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) met on Monday 12 January 2009 in Tunis with members of public affairs and foreign relations 'commission of the chamber of deputies.**

In this occasion, the Governor of the BCT went over the presidential decisions aiming to re-examine areas related to exchange, review 1985 law to further approach the offshore and the onshore banks as well as the decision of the Head of the State to pursue the economic and financial reforms, notably, by reducing non-performing loans' rate to less than 10% by 2011, further to creating a center specialized in financial studies.

In this meeting, issues related to the current economic situation and undertaken measures as well as the role of financial institutions and the financial sector in general were discussed with a view to preserving the real economy from fallouts of the international economic crisis.

The deputies evoked the issue of full liberalization of the dinar, foreign investment and the situation of the Tunisian dinar over 2009.

They focused also on the means for boosting the real economy and the private sector especially that the Tunisian financial sector has not been affected by the international financial crisis.

### **Visit to the currency museum**

The deputies visited then the currency museum at the BCT head office which was created under recommendations of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and inaugurated on 15 November 2008.

They were informed about the different components of the museum, notably, through the 1400 coins, 450 of which of the Islamic period, further to the exhibition of 650 coins of the contemporary period and the Change era.

Worth of note that the BCT has 5000 coins marking out the different eras of the Tunisian history from Punic Carthage, Numid kingdom, Roman and Vandal periods, Byzantium period up to the Islamic period, the Bey reign and the contemporary period.