

**Mr. Taoufik BACCAR, governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT), opened on Saturday 14 February 2009 in Tunis, works of a seminar on "credit bureau: for a better management of credit risk".**

**Mr. Taoufik BACCAR focussed on Tunisia's orientation, under President BEN Ali incentives, towards openness of the economy and the markets while following up innovation in all sectors, notably, communication and information.**

**He underlined support to any initiative impacting positively the business environment and acceleration of the banking sector upgrading.**

The Governor of the BCT added that this topic is rather a current issue at a time when the Tunisian lending institutions are implementing the programme to boost their financial bases and preparing for adoption of new international norms for computing core funds, based indeed on assessment of real risks.

He recalled in this respect that the adoption of Basle II terms is a challenge to take up for the banking sector and would represent an opportunity for credit bureaus.

Being led to improve analysis with respect to internal rating systems over which new norms for management of credit risk are based, banks would seek to better know each customer, his bank assets and liabilities, his guarantees, structure and maturity of his debts..., so many tools relevant to credit bureaus know-how.

The Governor of the BCT referred to undergone steps in the establishment of a new information base.

The information base which was created 35 years ago, posted definite evolutions : henceforth, it is a product of developed technology based on an open system with a large parameter going along with international norms and standards and representing a perfect tool to help take decisions as it allows to secure information on the financial situation of businesses and private individuals as well as their capacity for debt reimbursement.

Thanks to partnership quality between the banking profession and the BCT, success is confirmed through the 20 million movements posted yearly, daily queries that amount to some 3500, quality and degree of details of recorded data and the rapidity with which processed data are returned to the sector.

Success of the risk base, a unique work in its genre in Africa and the Arab world, contributed to better grading of Tunisia in "Doing Business": the World Bank report. This was thanks to the grading assigned to the indicator of disclosure of information on loans that evaluates the quality and extent of information that the Base is in a position to provide.

Mr. BACCAR considers that nothing would impede co-existence between the public information bases and the credit bureau in so far as the content of recorded information is not necessarily the same.

With a significant reservoir of information useful to appreciation of solvency risks, the information base does not judge the customer capacity to honour his commitments, neither does it assess his default risk nor establish score or rating. Such tools are nowadays under control of credit bureaus set up throughout the world.