

Mr. Taoufik BACCAR, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) chaired on Tuesday 11 March 2009 in Tunis a meeting with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team.

The meeting was about the evolution of the Tunisian economy over 2008 and outlook for 2009 in the wake of the international economic situation.

This meeting was an opportunity to go over the measures decided by Tunisia to reduce fallout of the international financial crisis on the economy, notably, with respect to support to exporting companies in particular and small and medium-sized businesses in general.

The meeting helped to evoke monetary and financial balances over 2008 and 2009 and the reforms committed to boost the banking sector and reinforce efficiency of the monetary policy led by the country.

The IMF staff team underlined, notably, improved banking indicators as regards sounder financial bases, more developed activity for deposit account, financing of the economy and greater control of risk.

The IMF staff team referred to the recent reform undertaken by the BCT as regard the latest reduction of the BCT key rate by setting up facilities for deposit and loan.

The governor of the BCT added that stimulated by President Ben Ali, Tunisia is determined to move forward with respect to reform and save no effort to curb the impact of this international financial crisis.

Worth of note that the IMF staff team stayed in Tunisia from 4th -10th March 2009 and met with the ministers of finance, development and international cooperation, industry, energy and small and medium-sized businesses and tourism.