

A part from the sessions of the fifth international conference on finance organised under the high patronage of the President of the Republic, Mr. Taoufik BACCAR, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia received on Friday 13 March 2009 Professor Edward C. PRESCOTT Nobel Prize of Economy for the year 2004.

In the meeting they dealt with international economic and financial crisis as well as the works carried out by professor Prescott on capital intelligence concept and notably the role of human capital and know-how development and the degree of dissemination of new technologies in countries development. Econometrics analysis carried out for this purpose shows that these factors account for 50% in growth.

As for financial crisis, professor Prescott outlined that speculative bubbles created in the real estate sector in the United States of America gave rise to this crisis that doesn't call into question opening and innovation principles including financial innovation where it is well used.

As far as Tunisia is concerned, professor Prescott praised the soundness of the Tunisian banking and financial system facing this serious international financial crisis thanks to a progressive approach adopted by Tunisia in the field of financial liberalization and deep-seated structural reforms implemented during the last two decades.

He also outlined that the performance recorded by Tunisia is the result of economic policies and choices in the field of human capital, know-how and new technologies development.

On the other hand, professor Prescott recommended the pursuit of the process of progressive and considered liberalization of capital account.

He focused on the importance of further developing national savings in such a way it is directed to investments in real economy in order to avoid the making up of speculative financial bubble.

Mr. Taoufik BACCAR indicated that Tunisia has been able thanks to the leadership of his Excellency the President of Republic to implement in time necessary preventive policies since the appearance of the first signs of the crisis.

He also indicated that a national commission created as regarded by the Head of the State is following the trend of international environment in order to anticipate the effects of this crisis and reduce its impact on real economy.

He reminded in this framework that a set of measures has already been implemented in order to support export oriented businesses and help them face the effects of this crisis in order to deepen structural reforms aiming at reinforcing competitiveness of Tunisian business so as to preserve its capacity to create new jobs.