



Presidency - Banks

The president of the Republic confers with the Governor of the BCT:

- **Extend the network of branches for the Bank to finance small and medium-sized businesses (BFPME) to involve all the governorates,**
- **Increase from two hundred thousand dinars to three hundred thousand dinars the ceiling of projects financed exclusively by (BFPME),**
- **Decrease by 1 percentage point the fixed interest rate on loans granted by the Housing Bank (Banque de l'Habitat: BH) on its core resources.**

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred on Friday 10 April 2009, late in the morning, with Mr. Taoufik Baccar, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) who presented to the Head of the State the financial results of the Bank for 2008. These results reflect the activity of this institution in the area of monetary policy and follow up of financing to the economy.

The President of the Republic recommended development of regional branches of the BCT, as per the new legislation and targets set for the financial sector.

The Head of the State received also a report on the international economic situation and its fallouts on the national economy.

In this respect, he recommended support to businesses and taking necessary measures to preserve global balances and pursue achievement of outlined development targets.

The President of the Republic ordered the holding of the periodic meeting of banks' chairmen early May 2009.

With a view to further boosting regional investment, notably in the wake of results of the regional conferences on investment, the head of the State decided to extend the network of branches for the Bank to finance small and medium-sized businesses (BFPME) to involve all the governorates.

He also decided to increase from two hundred thousand dinars to three hundred thousand dinars the ceiling of projects financed exclusively by (BFPME).

The President of the Republic recommended also a 1 percentage point decrease in the fixed interest rate on loans granted by the Housing Bank (Banque de l'Habitat: BH) on its core resources.

The President of the Republic was concerned with the financial sector results for 2008 and stressed the need to boost efforts to improve services and strengthen the sector contribution to financing development.