

PRESS RELEASE

Mr. Mustapha Kamel NABLI, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) held, on Wednesday 26 January 2011, in the headquarters of the Issuing Institution, a meeting with banks' officials.

Three main issues were on the agenda. This involved pursuit of financing of the economy and supply of economic operators with liquidity, communication with banks' clients and preserving public interest.

In this meeting, participants agreed to pursue financing of the economy by accelerating release of already approved loans, supporting businesses while giving them working capital loans. In this regard particular interest is to be given to financing of productive sectors.

Besides, the financial sector is now committed to leading a communication action for banks' correspondents and partners to re-assure soundness of the economic activity and the financial bases within the Tunisian banking system.

On the other hand, there was a focus on the need to re-assure banks' clients in general and damaged bank branches' clients in particular with respect to security of their assets, permanently making available to the different bank branches the liquidity they need to better meet their requirements.

Participants agreed also about certain measures consisting, notably, in improving communication with the clients by setting a toll-free number to answer to their questions as well as a display and disclosure device in mass media to ensure better orientation of damaged bank branches' clients towards temporary bank branches.

In this context, banks are committed to restore, in the best possible deadlines, damaged bank branches.

The BCT will continue to support the banking sector by injecting the liquidity needed on the money market.

On another level, in considering the particular situation, and in order to preserve bank interest, it was agreed to maintain freezing of assets of Ben Ali and Trabelsi families as well as any other private individual or legal entity likely to have suspicious financial relations with these families ; a measure that has already been taken since 16 January 2011.

In this same context, there was a focus on the need to limit financing of businesses belonging to or holding alliance with these same families to current operations, to hold up any transfer abroad or any doubtful operation and to immediately inform the Central Bank of Tunisia.