

Mr. Mustapha Kamel Nabli, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT), asserted on Thursday 05 May 2011 in a meeting-debate organized by the Arab Institute of businesses Managers that premises for recovery of household consumption are discernible in the wake of households tendency towards return to bank borrowings. He estimated in this regard that wage increases are likely to boost consumption.

He added that these factors will help resume domestic demand which posted a drop over the last previous months attributable to lower consumption and slower investment in the wake of a climate of uncertainty that reigned throughout the country.

Many investors prefer to postpone their projects till the political and security situation of the country gets better. Worth of note however that investors' confidence is somehow resumed.

The Governor of the BCT stated that the difficult situation the country is currently witnessing is attributable to « political shaking » that was led by 14 January revolution and its effects (absence of security, protest movements) further to the Libyan crisis.

He added that this crisis has complicated the situation and affected activity at exporting businesses and in tourism.

He called in this regard for the move towards Algeria as an important tourist provider for Tunisia.

Mr. Nabli went over the different economic indicators recorded over the last four months, of which notably 12% drop in industrial production compared to manufacturing industries' export rise by 11.6%. He referred also to the drop in tourist sector's yield (from 45% to 55%) and in travelers' movement by 25% further to decline in the activity of the mining and phosphate sector, down by 2.5%.

Up to last April, the current deficit of the balance of payment came to 2.5% of GDP (same level as 2010) while the inflation rate went up to 3%.

For the Governor of the BCT, the 12.5% drop in transfers by Tunisians living abroad over this period is rather "disconcerting".

Financing to the economy (loans to finance the economy), rose by 3.7% over the first four months of 2011 compared to 3.9% increase in the same period of 2010.

According to Mr.Nabli, success of democratic transition depends largely on the economic success, estimating that the major challenge consists in preserving the economic fabric and creating new projects.