

## Setting the rules for the Tunisian democratic transition: The Role of the High Commission in Promoting Legal and Constitutional Reform in Tunisia

A seminar organised by the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

**18 April 2011, 15h30-17h30, OECD Conference Centre room 7**

Popular demands for democracy and good governance have produced unprecedented political change in the political landscape in the Middle East and North Africa. Tunisia was the first country in the MENA region where the democratic aspirations of citizens were strongly expressed, changes occurred rapidly and the transition process started.

New institutions have emerged to conduct the process of democratic transition in Tunisia. Among them, the **High Commission for the Realisation of Revolution Objectives, Political Reforms and Democratic Transition** (High Commission) created on 18<sup>th</sup> of February under presidential decree leads the process of legal and institutional reform. The mission of the High Commission is to examine laws related to the institutional system, observe the conduct of the interim government and draft legislation on the election of a constituent assembly on July 24<sup>th</sup>. The High Commission is also expected to prepare specific reforms according to the demands expressed during the revolution.

Participants to the seminar will have the great opportunity to meet with the **President** of the High Commission, **Professor Yadh Ben Achour**, and **Mr. Ghazi Gherairi**, Spokesman of the High Commission, who will share their first-hand experiences with adopting constitutional reforms and preparing the ground for the first democratic elections in Tunisia.

Moreover, the seminar will be an occasion to discuss and analyse the impact of the democratic transition on the functioning of public services and the economy. For this purpose the seminar will be attended by **Mr. Ahmed Zarrouk**, President of the Civil Service Council at the Prime Minister's Office and National Coordinator of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme; and **Mr. Khalil Ghariani**, representing the Tunisian private sector.

### Hosts:

**H.E. Ambassador Chris Hoornaert**  
Permanent Representative, Co-chair of  
the MENA-OECD Governance  
Programme  
**Delegation of Belgium to the OECD**

**Mr. Rolf Alter**  
Director  
**Directorate for Public Governance and  
Territorial Development, OECD**

### Other participants:

Representatives from OECD delegations and all interested OECD colleagues