

## **Changes in the North Africa & Middle East: Tunisia's Transition to Democracy**

**Public seminar with**

**Tunisia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rafik Ben Abdessalem**

**and**

**The Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr. Christian Friis Bach**

**Friday May 25, 2012 at 10.30-12.00**

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and University of Copenhagen are pleased to invite you to a co-hosted seminar with **Tunisia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rafik Ben Abdessalem** and the **Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr. Christian Friis Bach**.

Since the popular uprising in December 2010 Tunisia has undergone dramatic political changes. After the first ever free and fair elections in October 2011, a coalition government headed by the Ennahda party was formed and is currently responsible for addressing some of Tunisia's many political and economic challenges and potentials.

The seminar will explore the nature and current status of the potentials and challenges that Tunisia faces in its transition to democracy – as well as the ways and means by which foreign actors such as Denmark and the European Union can address and support the transition process.

The seminar will take place on **Friday May 25, 2012** at Nye KUA, Njalsgade, building 22, room 011 (entrance from Emil Holms Kanal/Njalsgade). Please note that doors will be closed at 10.30 sharp. Entry to the auditorium will not be possible during the ministers' speeches.

The seminar will be in English.

Please register at [charlott@hum.ku.dk](mailto:charlott@hum.ku.dk) no later than Wednesday May 23 at noon by writing "Tunisia" in the subject line + name and institution.

### **Programme**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9.45 – 10.30  | <b>Arrival and Coffee</b>   |
| 10.30 – 10.35 | <b>Welcome</b><br>Ph.D. Fellow Rikke Hostrup Haugbølle (KUA),   |
| 10.35 – 10.55 | <b>Tunisia's Transition to Democracy: current status, challenges and potentials</b><br>Mr. Rafik Ben Abdessalem; Member of the <i>Ennahda</i> party and Tunisian Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| 10.55 – 11.15 | <b>Changes in the North Africa and Middle East: impressions one year after</b><br>Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Member of the <i>Radical Left</i> party and Danish Minister for Development       |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | <b>Questions from the audience</b><br>Moderator: Ph.D. and Project Researcher Julie Pruzan-Jørgensen (DIIS)   |