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Preface

One year after the beginning of the negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) between Tunisia and the European Union at October 13, 2015 we are very glad to present a publication, aimed at contributing, thanks to the critical analysis of European and North-African researchers, to intensify scientific cooperation between Europe and North-Africa in the crucial field of economics. We would like to express our gratitude to the authors, men and women, who accepted to share their long standing critical expertise in the field of the neoliberal globalization of economy and its negative impact on the economies of the Southern countries by writing articles for the present publication, deemed to mark a new stage of common research between experts from the North and the South aiming at fostering critical thinking in the domain of neoliberal economy and free trade. We hope that this publication which is part of a vaster program of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Tunis, directed by Khaled Chaabane, will contribute to further exchange of perspectives between the North and the South and shows, by referring to the Tunisian, Algerian and Moroccan examples, that different historical, political and economic constellations provoke different reactions to the EU's propositions for cooperation. Nevertheless, the history of the relationship between these North African countries and the EU reveals so many similarities that it seems to be more than useful to intensify cooperation between the Southern Mediterranean countries.

By an international conference from 10 to 12 October 2015 with a range of eminent economists from both sides of the Mediterranean in Tunis, the organizers intended to assist political actors, trade-unionists and activists of the civil society by sharpening their critical argumentation in view of the negotiations on the free trade agreement between Tunisia and the EU which were to start by October 13. The publication entitled: "Development by free trade?" however, goes far beyond the North-African context, taking the history and the evolution of the economic neoliberalism within the globalization into account and examining the different significations of the notion of development within different economic approaches. Far away from being merely "technical" agreements, as members of the European commission tend to advance, these free trade agreements are part of a

world vision: The free trade ideology corresponds to a new concept of domination of the global South by the global North which a number of critical researchers associate with the concept of neo-colonialism.

We would like to thank all those whose efforts made sure that this book could come out. This is especially true for professor Habib Mellakh from Manouba University whose propositions strongly contributed to the stylistic revision of the French articles. To end with we would like to express our gratitude for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's support and to congratulate the team in Tunis for its commitment.

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