Press Release
Jerusalem

3 MAY 2016

The EU contributes €15 million to the Palestinian Authority for the payment of April salaries and pensions

The European Union made yesterday a contribution of €15 million to the payment of April salaries and pensions of over 66,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This contribution was channelled through the PEGASE[1] mechanism.

"This month's payment is further solid evidence of our determination both to strengthen Palestinian institutions and ensure the provision of essential services to the Palestinian people," said the **EU Representative Mr. Ralph Tarraf.** *"The EU is well aware of the financial challenges that the Palestinian Authority is facing. Yet strong, transparent, and efficient Palestinian institutions are crucial to maintaining the viability of the two-state solution. The EU's continuing support for the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people is therefore also a political investment in peace and security for the whole region, "* he added.

Background

Most of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian Authority is channelled through PEGASE, the financial mechanism launched in 2008 to support the PA Reform and Development Plan (2008-2010) and subsequent Palestinian national plans. As well as helping to meet a substantial proportion of its running costs, European funds support major reform and development programmes in key ministries, to help prepare the PA for statehood. Since February 2008, around €2.0 billion have been disbursed through the PEGASE Direct Financial Support programmes. In addition, the EU has provided assistance to the Palestinian people through UNRWA and a wide range of cooperation projects.

[1] *Mécanisme **P**alestino-**E**uropéen de **G**estion de l'**A**ide **S**ocio-**E**conomique (PEGASE)*

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