Press Release
Jerusalem
6 JUNE 2016

The EU contributes €15 million to the Palestinian Authority's payment of May salaries and pensions

The European Union made yesterday a contribution of €15.0 million to the payment of May salaries and pensions of over 66,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This contribution is being channelled through the PEGASE[1] mechanism.

"We remain determined to sustain the work of the Palestinian Authority through regular contributions by the EU to the salaries and pensions of Palestinian civil servants and pensioners" said the **EU Representative Mr. Ralph Tarraf.** *"The EU has been the most reliable and committed partner for the Palestinian Authority providing significant support and predictable financial support while strongly advocating for necessary reforms as part of its overall commitment to the building of a future Palestinian ",* 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, over €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)*

Contacts:
The Office of the European Union Representative:
Shadi Othman (02 5415 867, 0599 673 958); Inas Abu Shirbi (02 5415 859, 0599 673 957)
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/