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Mr. Jean Arthuis, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the EP Committee on Budgets, visits Gaza

Mr. Jean Arthuis, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the EP Committee on Budgets, paid a visit today to the Gaza Strip. He visited projects funded by the EU, designed to promote sustainable economic development and the empowerment of women as well as some infrastructure projects in the water sector, inter alia the North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment Plant NGEST and the recently inaugurated Water Desalination Plant in Deir Balah next to Khan Yunis. Mr. Arthuis met with a number of beneficiaries of EU funded projects, with interlocutors from developmental and humanitarian agencies implementing these projects and with representatives of civil society.

"I am very impressed by the unabated spirit of resilience of the people of Gaza and I am very touched by their hope for a better future, despite their currently dire situation", declared Arthuis on the occasion of his visit. "We owe it to the people of Gaza to continue to do our utmost to improve the situation there. The people of Gaza have the right to live in freedom and peace and to work for a better, prosperous future for themselves and their children. For me, this goes hand in hand with respecting Israel's legitimate security interests."

Mr. Arthuis has been mandated to visit the Gaza Strip by Mr. Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament. He is the first Member of the European Parliament to visit Gaza since 2011.