Press Release
Jerusalem
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The EU and the Netherlands contribute over €35 million to the PA's payment of May salaries and pensions

The European Union is making today a contribution of €35.875 million to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) payment of 55,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank.

This contribution is being funded by the European Union (€35.0 million) and the Netherlands (€0.875 million), with the latter earmarked for civil servants working in the Justice sector.

"*The EU is making today its first annual contribution to the Palestinian Authority for the year 2018. Our joint contribution underscores that the EU and it Member States remain reliable and committed donors in support of a two-state solution"* said the **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf**.

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 and subsequent Palestinian national plans and agendas, including the ongoing National Policy Agenda "Putting Citizens First". As well as helping to meet a substantial proportion of its recurrent expenditure, European funds support major reform and development programmes in key ministries, to help prepare the PA for statehood. Since February 2008, over €2.3 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 (02 541 5 859, 0599 673 957)
http://eeas.europa.eu/palestine