Press Release
Jerusalem
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Around €11 million from the EU and the Netherlands for the salaries and pensions of Palestinian civil servants

The European Union is making today a contribution of €10.62 million to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) payment of nearly 55,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank.

This contribution is funded by the European Union (€10.0 million) and the Netherlands (€0.62 million), with the latter earmarked for civil servants working in the Justice sector.

"The civil servants play an important role in Palestinian life by making sure that the public policies and services are carried out. They ensure the functioning of the system, stability and security. Civil servants and pensioners rely on their wages for their day-to-day life. Our contributions to civil servants salaries and pensions demonstrate once more the European Union's enduring support for Palestinian state-building efforts. The EU and its Member States remain the most reliable and committed donors and partners to the Palestinian people," 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)*

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