Press Release
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The European Union provides €2.37 million to support Palestinian farmers

The European Union made a new contribution of €2.37 million to support Palestinian farmers and agro-businesses in the West Bank. The contribution was channelled through the Palestinian Authority's programme "Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank - AAWB".

241 Palestinian farmers and agro-businesses affected by Israeli occupation in the West Bank will benefit from this new contribution. This support will help the farmers relaunch, repair or replace damaged businesses through different activities including the acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works. This brings the total beneficiaries of the programme up-to-date to 365 farmers.

"The agricultural production is a crucial sector of the Palestinian economy. The support to the agricultural sector is essential to build a future Palestinian State with a viable economy. In this context, the EU contributes to programmes run by the Palestinian Authority to support agro-businesses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip", said **the EU Representative Ralph Tarraf**.

The overall financial envelope of the Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank (AAWB) programme amounts to €7.0 million. It is expected to serve about 450 eligible beneficiaries in the West Bank with a focus on Area C. The programme is managed by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund. The payments are made by the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Finance and Planning through a network of local banks in the West Bank.

Background:

Most of the European Union's assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is channelled through PEGASE Direct Financial Support to the PA, the financial mechanism launched in 2008 to support the PA Reform and Development Plan (2008-2010) and the subsequent Palestinian national development plans. It also aims at meeting a substantial part/ portion/ amount of the PA's running costs. European Union funds currently 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 PEGASE Direct Financial Support programmes. In addition, the EU has provided assistance to the Palestinian people through UNRWA as well as through a wide range of other cooperation projects.

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