



Press Release
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The EU continues its support to the PA by contributing €22.5 million to the payment of April salaries and pensions

Today, the European Union (EU) is contributing €22.5 million to help the Palestinian Authority pay the April salaries and pensions of around 84,500 Palestinian public service providers and pensioners. This contribution is channelled through PEGASE^[1], the European mechanism for support to the Palestinians, and is being funded by the European Commission.

"In these very challenging times for the Palestinian Authority, this new contribution shows again the EU's continuing financial support to its institutions and their ability to provide essential public services to the Palestinian people", said EU Representative John Gatt-Rutter. "The EU calls on all parties concerned to fulfil their obligations with regards to the PA in a timely and reliable manner", added the EU Representative.

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 the subsequent PA Palestinian National Plan (2011-2013). 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 in line with the plan put forward by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in August 2009. Since February 2008, €1.3 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.

For further information in Arabic and English on the EU's assistance to the occupied Palestinian territory and the PEGASE mechanism, please visit: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/>

^[1] *Mécanisme Palestino-Européen de Gestion de l'Aide Socio-Economique (PEGASE)*

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