



Press Release
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The EU contributes €19.0 million to the Palestinian Authority's payment of November salaries and pensions

The European Union is making today a contribution of €19.0 million to the payment of November salaries and pensions of over 67,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the PEGASE^[1] mechanism.

*"For many years, the EU has been the biggest donor and most reliable partner to the Palestinian Authority. In 2015, the European Union provided a total of 115 million Euros to support the Palestinian Authority in maintaining regular payment of civil servants' salaries and pensions. Our contribution helps in delivering key public services in education and health while we continue our common efforts in various sectors to strengthen the Palestinian economy and minimise its dependence on donor assistance," 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 (2008-2010) and subsequent Palestinian national plans. 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. Since February 2008, around €1.9 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 Palestino-Européen de Gestion de l'Aide Socio-Economique (PEGASE)*

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