EU mechanism for support to Palestinians (PEGASE) contributes €35.5 million to pay salaries and pensions of 74,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners

74,000 Palestinian public service providers and pensioners will today receive a total of \leq 35.5 million (NS 195 million), which is being disbursed through the European mechanism for support to the Palestinians, PEGASE.

The EUs PEGASE contribution will be added to this month's payment of salaries and pensions by the Palestinian Ministry of Finance, thus helping to ensure the continued delivery of essential public services. Responding to a specific request for increased support by the Palestinian Authority, this month's contribution is higher than in previous months. This higher amount is made possible thanks to additional contributions from Spain and Slovenia, as well as funds from the European Commission.

PEGASE channels EU and international assistance to help build a Palestinian State. Launched by the European Commission on 1 February 2008, it is the main financing mechanism of the European Union, the largest donor to the Palestinians.

PEGASE is fully in line with the priorities expressed by the Palestinian Authority in the Palestinian Reformand Development Plan and is open to contributions from donors wishing to channel funds to the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territory.

For further information in Arabic and English on the EUs assistance to the oPt and the new PEGASE mechanism, please visit: <u>www.delwbg.ec.europa.eu</u> Contact: Alix de Mauny, Press and Information Manager, European Commission Technical Assistance Office, 054 802 4915 <u>alix.de-mauny@ec.europa.eu</u>