EU contributes €23 million to pay salaries and pensions of over 73,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners through PEGASE

PR/021/2008

Jerusalem - 73,761 Palestinian public service providers and pensioners will today receive a total of over NIS 117 million (over \in 23 million), which is being disbursed through the European mechanism for support to the Palestinians, PEGASE[1].

The EU's 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. Funds from the European Member States and the European Commission will be channeled through the Single Treasury Account of the Palestinian Authority.

Spain and Sweden have both contributed to this month's payment.

PEGASE channels EU and international assistance to help build a Palestinian State and 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 Reform and 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 EU's assistance to the oPt and the new PEGASE mechanism, please visit: www.delwbg.ec.europa.eu

Contact

Alix de Mauny, Press and Information Manager, European Commission Technical Assistance Office, 054 802 4915 - alix.de-mauny@ec.europa.eu Alix de Mauny Press and Information Manager

European Commission Technical Assistance Office for the West Bank and Gaza Strip PO Box 22207 Mount of Olives Jerusalem Tel: +97225415888 ext 859 Fax:+97225415848 Mobile: +97254 7498678 Website : <u>www.delwbg.ec.europa.eu</u>

Note:

[1] Mécanisme Palestino-Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-Economique (PEGASE)