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# G8: Up to 3 Billion US-\$ for Palestinian Authority

by Alexander Rieper



Gaza City

The G8 states agreed on their summit in Gleneagles in the United Kingdom in July 2005 "a substantial package of help for the Palestinian Authority amounting to up to US-\$3bn in the years to come". The amount would mark a new record in foreign aid support to the Palestinians. The summit was attended by James Wolfensohn, the Quartet's Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement.

Germany among the G8-states has a long experience in assisting Palestinian business activity and is one of the major donors of foreign aid. Since 1994, financial cooperation worth Euro 310 million, and since 1982, technical cooperation worth Euro 101 million have been agreed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). Main fields of cooperation are water, wastewater and waste treatment, economic reforms,

employment and support of institutions, which include economic advice to the Ministry of National Economy and the Ministry of Finance in the area of customs and indirect taxes.

Germany's KfW banking group has 13 ongoing projects in the West Bank and Gaza, with a total amount of Euro 180 million. Among these a wastewater retreatment project in Gaza Centre which has a value of Euro 70.5 million. Furthermore, the World Bank has currently 12 active projects worth together US-\$ 146.8 million.

Now that the Disengagement process is almost completed, Gaza has the challenging opportunity to serve as a model. If self-administration leads to success, positive outcome can derive for the West Bank as well. A Gaza

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