

TALLINN. Nov 21 (Interfax) - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves have said that eastern partners - Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine - need visible and tangible support from democratic states, a spokesperson for the Estonian government told Interfax on Thursday.

"This will help protect their rights to an independent choice free from economic and political threats and sanctions," they said during a working lunch in Tallinn on Thursday.

Over the past year NATO has become stronger and more decisive, the Estonian president said.

"It is the only right response to those who attack the independence of a neighboring state, its territorial integrity, our common democratic system," Ilves said.

"We wish to see more military presence of NATO allies in our region," the president said.

He and Stoltenberg noted: "A visible presence in the region is extremely necessary."