

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves has sent a letter of congratulations to Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko wishing both him and the people of his country well on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day.

"I wish you strength, resolve and determination in reinforcing Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, which are the cornerstones of a successful, European Ukraine," the letter stated. "I also hope that after the extremely difficult period you are currently experiencing all of those who live in the country will feel that they are citizens of a safe and stable Ukraine."

"I can confirm to you that Estonia remains one of Ukraine's closest allies and partners, being open to cooperation in a wide range of fields," President Ilves continued in the letter. "I am especially pleased about the signing of the association agreement between the European Union and Ukraine at the end of June, as it has great symbolic and practical meaning for both sides. Estonia supports your drawing closer to the European Union, convinced that stronger ties with democratic countries which value the rule of law, the market economy and transparency will most effectively contribute to Ukraine's development and to the bright future of your people."

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