

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, held a dinner to honour Robert Menendez, Chairman of the United States Committee on Foreign Relations; Minister of Foreign Affairs Urmas Paet, Minister of Defence Sven Mikser and Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu Marko Mihkelson were also present at the dinner.

The meeting focused on the security situation in Europe and trans-Atlantic defence co-operation. According to the shared opinion of President Ilves and Senator Menendez, the security situation in Europe has permanently changed, both for the purposes of the identification of threats and responding to them. They were also in agreement about imposing strong sanctions against Russia. The parties involved also discussed the deterrent policies of trans-Atlantic allies on the eve of NATO's top summit in Wales, as the US Senate plays an important role in approving the security measures suggested by President Obama. Specific measures to assist Ukraine, both in the course of the current conflict and during the implementation of reforms, were discussed.

President Ilves also met with Senator Menendez this March at the Brussels Forum. The visit of the Senator represents an acknowledgment of Estonia's achievement and our contribution to co-operation with the allies. The last time a sitting Chairman of the United States Committee on Foreign Relations visited Estonia was 20 years ago.

Office of the President
Public Relations Department
Phone +372 631 6229