

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves is on a working visit to Braga, Portugal, where he will attend the meeting of the Arraiolos Group, which discusses key issues of the European Union.

At the current meeting of the Arraiolos Group, at which the heads of states that do not attend the sessions of the European Council will be present, the participants will focus on the topics of security, energy and migration and on the general economic situation in Europe, including employment.

At the invitation of the Portuguese Head of State, Aníbal Cavaco Silva; the President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves; the President of Latvia, Andris Bērziņš; the President of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski; the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck; the President of Finland, Sauli Niinistö; the President of Hungary, János Áder; the President of Austria, Heinz Fischer; and the President of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev, will participate in the Arraiolos Group meeting in Braga.

The Arraiolos Group is the name for a series of informal meetings launched in 2003 and bringing together heads of state who, according to their respective constitutions, do not take part in the sessions of the European Council. To date, nine meetings have been held, the first of which was held by the President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio, in Arraiolos, Portugal, and included the heads of state of Latvia, Poland, Germany, Finland and Hungary. At the 2005 meeting in Helsinki, the circle of participants grew with Austria and Italy joining the group. In 2011, Slovenia was invited and Estonia and Bulgaria were invited last year.

The head of state will return to Estonia late on Tuesday.

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