

"Today is the first day on the job for NATO's new Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. I wish him strength and success in this position. NATO's previous Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, will go down in the annals of history as one of the most successful and determined leaders to have ever steered the alliance. I am positive that NATO's new Secretary General Stoltenberg will maintain the alliance's influence, look out for its allies and uphold our shared values and interests as a successful defence organisation during these difficult times, which all of us will continue to face going forward," said President Toomas Hendrik Ilves.

"Jens Stoltenberg is a person endowed with a clear understanding of NATO's fundamental principles and values, and he has an unwavering will to maintain the consensus of NATO allies in this respect. These principles are non-negotiable," Estonia's Head of State added.

In the past six months, Russia's actions in Ukraine have altered the entire post war security landscape in Europe, Estonia's Head of State pointed out. In this new security situation, the resolutions adopted at NATO's recent summit concerning the deterrents and partnership policy of the alliance are especially important.

"Enormous credit is due to Mr Rasmussen for reinforcing the security of NATO's frontier nations. I am positive that Jens Stoltenberg will continue to pursue NATO's current approach with equal vigour," Estonia's Head of State declared.

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