

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, today sent Andris Bērziņš, President of the Republic of Latvia, congratulations on the Day of Independence of the Republic of Latvia.

"I wish both you and Latvia in general happiness on the anniversary of your country," wrote President Ilves, who described the relations between our countries and people as close and reliable, as is common for such long-term friends.

"This was clearly evident in the joint parade of the voluntary national defence organisations of Estonia and Latvia, which took place in midsummer in Valga, and the countless contacts between entrepreneurs, cultural persons, state officials, professors and students, local authorities and citizens on a daily basis," wrote the Estonian Head of State.

He stated that Europe and democratic countries in general are about to put a serious, challenging year behind them: "Even as we celebrated the passing of a quarter of century since the fall of the Berlin Wall and accepted the Golden Victoria awards presented to the Baltic states in Berlin, we can see new diverging lines emerging in Europe, the new annexation of territories by military force and support being made available to separatists fighting against the integrity of a neighbouring country."

According to President Ilves, it is important for us all to take general responsibility for maintaining and promoting security in the region and, as allies, we can all offer a fair contribution towards achieving this goal.

The Estonian Head of State wished the state apparatus of Latvia strength, consistency and decisiveness, as Latvia will soon take over the Presidency of the European Union.

"Long live the Republic of Latvia! Long live Latvians!" were the words that President Ilves used in concluding his letter of congratulations to his Latvian colleague.

President Ilves: “Long live the Republic of Latvia! Long live Latvians!”

Tuesday, 18 November 2014 09:49

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