

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, sent congratulations to the Head of State of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, and all the people of Finland on the 97th anniversary of Finnish independence.

"This year has been complicated and brought several new developments for the family of European countries; alas, not all the developments have been pleasant. The aggression from Russia against Ukraine and western values has brought about the need to stand in unison for everything our family believes in," wrote President Ilves.

"This year has brought Estonia and Finland even closer. High-level contacts between Estonia and Finland have brought us together more than ever before," said the Estonian Head of State, who also recalled his state visit to Finland this spring. "They serve as an essential landmark in confirming the relations between Finland and Estonia".

President Ilves finished his letter of congratulations with the words: "Long live independent Finland!"

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