

Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, referred to the mutual trust between Estonia and Germany and our close and diversified relationships, along with the wonderful co-operation within the EU and NATO.

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, recalled his visit to Tallinn six months ago and stated that relations between Estonia and the USA are laid on a solid foundation and rely upon shared values; Estonia is a leader in cyber security and freedom of Internet issues. He also spoke of the importance and impressiveness of that fact that Estonia, as an ally of NATO, has passed the milestone of two percent of GDP on defence expenditure.

Estonia also received congratulations on Independence Day from the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, who confirmed that our relations are in a smooth and good stage of development.

The President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, described Estonia and Lithuania as the best of allies and emphasised the importance of our shared contribution to this area and in maintaining trans-Atlantic and European Union security in general.

Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, emphasised our shared commitment to common values, particularly human rights, democracy, and an international order based on rules, and acknowledged the hard work and entrepreneurship of the Estonian community in Australia.

Governor General of Canada, David Lloyd Johnston, recalled the close relationships between our countries, which rely on historical relations, shared values and close relationships between people; the values that we share are strengthened by co-operation in NATO and the UN.

Congratulations were also sent by the King of Holland, the Queen of the United Kingdom, the Emperor of Japan, the King of Belgium, the King of Morocco and the heads of state of Russia, Israel, Algeria, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Ireland.

President Ilves receives congratulations from foreign states on Estonian Independence Day

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