

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will tonight give a presentation in Berlin at an annual conference organised by the Christian Democratic Union Party – CDU – led by Angela Merkel; this year, the meeting's slogan is "Go on instead of fearing the future: Reforms for Germany and Europe".

The economic conference being organised by CDU as the main political party in Germany will focus on the competitiveness of German industry and digital economy and innovation, which are closely related fields, as well as free trade, market stability, energy and climate policies. The organisers of the conference believe the view that the current structure has the capacity to secure future competitiveness is an illusion, and they wish to emphasise that Germany, just like the European Union in general, needs large changes and structural reforms.

The keynote speakers of the conference are the Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel; Estonian Head of State, Toomas Hendrik Ilves; the head of Google Eric Schmidt; and possible candidate for the office of president of the United States of America, Jeb Bush. President Ilves will speak at the invitation of the organisers of the conference about boosting the competitiveness of the European Union and the creation of jobs in a digital society ("Boosting EU competitiveness and jobs through the digital economy").

He warns that the European Union will lag behind globally unless a common book of digital economy rules is created. Goods and services enjoy free movement in the physical European Union market but, regrettably, not in our virtual world. Rapid growth in the scope of digital services represents an inseparable part of our successful future and the European Union must make the most of this potential for the benefit of both the EU itself and all the member states, says President Ilves in voicing his conviction.

In May, during President Ilves's state visit to Germany, possible connections between Estonia's successful digital economy and German industry were discussed at all the official meetings.

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