

The sixth annual Estonia's Friends International Meeting will commence today and last until 11 July. The participants will be hosted by the President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, and Enterprise Estonia (EE). This year, more than 150 entrepreneurs, politicians and opinion leaders from more than 20 countries will attend the meeting.

The meeting will be opened by the seminar "Estonia – the country where stuff happens first" hosted by Enterprise Estonia and featuring Daniel Vaarik, Taavi Kotka, Ain Aaviksoo and Marten Kaevats as keynote speakers. The seminar will discuss the smart solutions available in Estonia.

Thursday evening includes a traditional concert by ERSO, "Great Summer Gathering. Friends", with conductor Neeme Järvi. The concert's patron is President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and the concert is dedicated to Arto Pärt's 80th birthday year.

The traditional symposium "Quo vadis Estonia?" will be held in the Estonian Parliament building. The symposium will feature talks from President Ilves and Balaji Srinivasan, a board partner at Andreessen Horowitz and a start-up entrepreneur on the topic of "Identity: Online and Offline". The event will be moderated by Sten Tamkivi. Delfi will broadcast the event live.

The same day, friends of Estonia will meet with the Prime Minister, Taavi Rõivas, and take part in a concert-reception at Oandu watermill, Lahemaa.

Visitors from the USA, Brazil, Japan, China, Australia, Russia and several European countries will take part in the event today. Among the guests this year are for example the US Department of State Coordinator for Cyber Issues, Christopher M. Painter; Gordon Marsden, Member of the Parliament from the United Kingdom; Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti, and members of the management board of the Mitsubishi corporation.

The idea to have an international meeting of friends of Estonia was conceived in 2010. The event is organised to thank and recognise business, political and cultural figures whose actions and advice have helped Estonia become a truly European country with a dynamic economy and thriving culture. The event may have a key role in bringing foreign investment to Estonia.

For additional information, please contact:

Kaidi Aher

Adviser to the Office of the President (on Communication Matters)

Office of the President

Tel: 57501959, 6316216

kaidi.aher@vpk.ee