

The idea and ethical framework of Europe, Europe's self-confidence and education as a tool to alleviate unemployment among young people are the main topics to be discussed by the eleven heads of state of the Arraiolos Group – including the President of the Republic of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves – tomorrow and the day after in Germany.

The refugee crisis and internal solidarity and the responsibility of the European Union; the reach of political and moral boundaries of Europe and international law; education and measures to reduce unemployment among young people; and the integration of refugees – these are just some of the key words to characterise this year's discussion of the heads of state who belong to the Arraiolos Group in Erfurt and Wartburg.

The heads of state of Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Finland, Portugal and Slovenia will attend the meeting at the invitation of the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck.

The Arraiolos Group is the name for a series of informal meetings launched in 2003 that brings together heads of state who, according to their respective constitutions, do not take part in the sessions of the European Council. To date, ten meetings have been held, the first of which was held by the President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio, in Arraiolos, Portugal, and included the heads of state of Latvia, Poland, Germany, Finland and Hungary. At the 2005 meeting in Helsinki, the circle of participants grew with Austria and Italy joining the group. In 2011, Slovenia was invited, Estonia and Bulgaria were invited in 2013 and Malta joined this year.

Office of the President  
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