

The meeting between President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, focused on the biggest challenges for Europe today, including migration and security.

President Ilves stated that the gap that has emerged between the so-called Eastern and Western European countries against the background of the migration crisis is rather worrisome. According to the Estonian Head of State, the so-called Eastern European countries must demonstrate the solidarity that we have experienced from our allies since accession to the European Union.

"The European Council has had an important role in managing the migration crisis by increasingly focusing on the core reasons behind the migration," acknowledged President Ilves.

"The European Council has also done a good job in achieving a uniform approach at Member State level in regard to sanctions for Russia," added the Head of State.

President Ilves and the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, also spoke about the growth of populist political powers in Europe and the resulting fanning of xenophobia in the society.

They also discussed the economic sanctions imposed on Russia and further strategies to be pursued by the European Union, including energy security.

The Estonian Head of State also met today with Andrus Ansip, Vice President for the Digital Single Market of the European Commission, to discuss some issues linked to the developments that are taking place in the sphere of information technology.