

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves left for a working visit to the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Finland today.

In the morning President Ilves met with the President of the Republic of Latvia Vaira Vike-Freiberga. The meeting focused on the cooperation of the Baltic states within the European Union and NATO, especially the messages of the NATO summit meeting in Riga, cooperation within the framework of the EU Neighbourhood Policy, joining the Schengen visa space and cross-border cooperation. Also energy related security issues were discussed.

The President of the Republic underlined that now when the European Union and NATO have opened new possibilities for the Baltic states, it is necessary to agree upon important messages for our states and deepen our cooperation so that the voice of our three countries could be heard.

The President of Latvia found that it is also important to cooperate before the NATO Summit in Riga and agree upon the important messages of our three countries and bring them out jointly. President Vike-Freiberga thanked Estonia for supporting her candidature for the post of UN Secretary-General.

A photo session of the two presidents was held in Riga and after that President Ilves signed the guest book. The heads of state also gave a joint press conference.

Then the President of the Republic left Riga for Finland where he will meet the President of Finland Tarja Halonen and will hold a joint press conference with her. Following that President Ilves will meet with the Prime Minister of Finland Matti Vanhanen and Max Jakobson, a well-known Finnish public figure.

The head of Estonian state will return to Estonia this evening.

The President of the Republic met with the President of the Republic of Latvia

Monday, 16 October 2006 17:48

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President

Kadriorg, October 16, 2006