

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves congratulated Kersti Kaljulaid, who was elected the next Head of State of Estonia by the Riigikogu with 81 votes.

"I will pass the office of the President of the Republic over to Kersti Kaljulaid on 10 October, with confidence and peace in my heart," said Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who has held the office of Head of State since autumn 2006.

"Kersti Kaljulaid has a sensitive and smart eye in her approach to Estonian, European and security affairs," assured President Ilves, who only recently appointed the former member of the European Court of Auditors to the Advisory Committee of the Foresight Centre. "I wish to invite all my compatriots to acknowledge her as the new Head of State."

President Ilves commended the parliamentary parties for reaching a consensus in the presidential elections: "As I said at the opening of the autumn season of Parliament, we need to elect a President who will enjoy cross-party support, as is characteristic of a parliamentary country: someone who is aware of his or her job description and functions as laid down in the Constitution, and who will represent Estonia in her experiences and mind-set, both at home and abroad."

The Head of State, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, will meet the President-elect, Kersti Kaljulaid, in Kadriorg tonight.

Office of the President
Public Relations Department