Today in Kadriorg, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves received Plamen Lubomirov Bonchev, the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, who presented his credentials.

According to the President of the Republic, the relations between Estonia and Bulgaria are good and have intensified during the past few years. The Head of State congratulated Bulgaria on the occasion of its imminent accession to the European Union, and confirmed that Estonia intends to open its job market to the citizens of Bulgaria and Romania.

"I am especially glad that you are presenting your credentials now, figuratively only a moment before your country joins the European Union," said President Ilves.

The Estonian Head of State was interested in how Bulgaria's preparations for accession to the European Union are progressing, and what their priorities will be as a future member state. He also said that he sees great opportunities for Estonian-Bulgarian cooperation in the fields of trade and investment.

According to Ambassador Bonchev, Estonia and Bulgaria are close partners. "As a member of the European Union, Bulgaria—where, like Estonia, there is great public support for the European Union—shall be closely tied to Estonia, not only by traditional good relations, but also as a close partner," said Ambassador Bonchev.

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President Kadriorg, 14 December 2006