

The 89th Anniversary of the Estonian Republic will be celebrated with formal state ceremonies in Tallinn and Tartu on February 23 and 24.

President of the Republic Toomas Hendrik Ilves will hand over state decorations at the ceremony "Estonia is Grateful" at noon on Friday, February 23 at the Estonia Concert Hall.

At 7:34 am on Saturday, February 24, the state flag will be formally raised atop the Tall Hermann Tower on Toompea. The President of the Republic will participate in the raising of the flag and Toomas Varek, the President of the Riigikogu, will give a speech.

At 10 am, the President of the Republic will review the Estonian Defence Forces' parade on Vabaduse Väljak, which will be led by the Commander of the Defence Forces, Major-General Ants Laaneots, who will also give a speech.

At 11:30 am, the President of the Republic and Mrs. Evelin Ilves will attend the Independence Day services at the Toomkirik.

At 1 pm, Prime Minister Andrus Ansip will present the State Science, Culture, and Sports Awards as well as the State Language Prize at the Academy of Sciences hall on Toompea.

At 6 pm, a formal concert dedicated to the 89th Anniversary of the Republic of Estonia will start in Tartu, at the Vanemuine Theater and Concert Hall, where President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will give the Independence Day speech. The concert will be followed by a reception by the President of the Republic and Mrs. Evelin Ilves. The anniversary celebrations will be broadcast by Estonian Television.

FOR THE PRESS!

The journalists who wish to report on the “Estonia is Grateful” ceremony on February 23, please notify us of your wish by 11 am on Wednesday, February 21, by telephoning 631 6229 or by e-mail to pille.osula@vpk.ee.

The journalists who wish to report on the events of February 24, please apply for accreditation at the Foreign Ministry Press Center by 4 pm on Tuesday, February 20, by telephoning 6377 630 or by e-mail to centre@vm.ee. When applying for accreditation, please specify which journalist, photographer or camera operator wishes to report on which event, by noting his/her name, publication, and personal ID code.

On Thursday, February 22 at 4:30 pm, a background briefing will be held at the Foreign Ministry Press Center in Tallinn at Island Väljak 1, regarding the Independence Day events and reporting opportunities, in which the Office of the President, representatives of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department and Press Center as well as Security Police will participate. Accredited journalists will receive their personal badges at the briefing or thereafter from the Foreign Ministry reception desk. Personal badges will not be distributed at the events. When coming to the background briefing, please leave your cameras, microphones, and tape recorders in your office.

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President
Kadriorg, 14 February 2007