

On Wednesday at a formal dinner organized in his honor by Finnish President Tarja Halonen, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves spoke about the strong ties connecting the two countries throughout history.

“Trust is born between people. The cooperation between the Estonian and Finnish civil societies has been very close—it is difficult to find a choir, school, or congregation, who has not visited friends-from-across-the-bay,” said President Ilves in his remarks.

According to the Head of State, Estonia and Finland are also closely connected economically. “Finnish investments in Estonia form a fifth of the total investment volume and Estonian companies are increasingly interested in expanding their operations to Finland,” noted President Ilves, adding that in order to maintain the economic upturn in the Baltic Sea Region, all innovative efforts should be united.

“A good example is the research bridge between the Tallinn University of Technology and University of Helsinki for procuring and using laboratories and equipment.”

In closing the speech at the Presidential Palace, President Ilves said that as member states of the European Union, the efforts of both Estonia and Finland are directed at expanding the area of peace, well-being and security in the world.

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