In Kadriorg today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves received Mr. Damir Kušen, Croatia's Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, who presented his credentials to the Estonian Head of State.

Croatian Ambassador informed President Ilves of the success Croatia has achieved in the process of Croatian accession to the European Union and NATO. According to the Ambassador, Croatia is greatly welcoming Estonia's support and assistance in these matters; additionally, the Ambassador highly valued the current military partnership between the two countries and the study opportunities granted by the Baltic Defence College to the Croatian military. "Estonia is constantly supporting Croatia's fast accession to the European Union and NATO," affirmed the Estonian Head of State.

According to the President, the mutual relationship between the two countries has been excellent so far. "However, I personally envision that there is still plenty of room to develop these ties for a more dynamic relationship. The highest potential lies within the economic relations between our two countries, where one of the areas of co-operation with highest growth possibilities is no doubt the tourism industry," noted president Ilves. He further elaborated that even now Estonian investors have already shown great interest in Croatia.

Mr. Damir Kušen emphasised that as an ambassador, he will do his best to bring the two countries and two nations closer to each other.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Republic of Estonia is residing in Helsinki, Finland. Ambassador of Estonia to Croatia is Mr. Miko Haljas, who is residing in Budapest, Hungary.

Office of the President, Public Relations Department Kadriorg, 29 March 2007