At the Local Government and Regional Development Roundtable that met with the President of the Republic yesterday, the Head of State called upon the local governments to be more open to and to pursue active cooperation with the local governments of other countries, who need our skills and knowledge in organizing their activities.

"Think about how useful it was for our local governments to find friendship towns in Finland, Sweden, and Denmark. How important the support of these countries was for us. Today in countries like Georgia there is an urgent need for such cooperation. Our experience would be of great help. Today, we are in a position to help other countries, the same way our local friendship governments helped us."

The main topic at the Roundtable was "Quality Management in Local Governments, and the main speaker was Vallo Reimaa, Minister for Regional Affairs. The Minister provided an overview of the future prospects for local government associations and county governments. The discussions that followed included what the functions of the country governor should be, what the local government associations need to function better, and how to guarantee the quality of services provided by local governments. It was asserted that the most important and legally most complicated topic is the status of the local government associations.

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