

In connection with the updating of the social contract process and the reorganization of the activities of the Social Contract Foundation, and in accordance with the statutes of the Social Contract Foundation approved in March of this year, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves yesterday appointed a new Supervisory Board for the Social Contract Foundation.

The members of the Supervisory Board are academician Ain-Elmar Kaasik, Vice-President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences; Professor Andres Keevallik, Vice-Rector for Development of the Tallinn University of Technology; Anna Levandi, Head Coach of Estonia's National Figure Skating Team; Bishop Einar Soone, President of the Estonian Council of Churches; well-known businessman and consultant Raivo Vare; and Professor Rein Veidemann of Tallinn University.

According to President Ilves, Estonia's development cannot only be considered a success when we have a free and independent civil society. "Only a neutral and politically independent cooperation network of non-governmental organizations can contribute to the shaping of Estonia's development, by promoting democracy and civic responsibility in the country through its activities," noted the Estonian Head of State.

The President's assessment is that, today more than ever, we need a meaningful and broad-based public dialogue regarding the key issues of Estonian development, which will develop our value judgments and unite our attitudes and thinking towards a common future.

The Social Contract is a cooperation network of non-governmental organizations interested in Estonia's long-term development, with the objective of bring forth, discussing, and coordinating the positions of the parties, and based thereon, developing assessments and proposals in key issues regarding the country's future. The primary topics under consideration are the health, education, social security, and regional development of our nation. Currently, more than 60 organizations have joined the Social Contract.

Social Contract activities are coordinated by the Social Contract Foundation, which was established by the President of the Republic in 2003. The Social Contract Foundation issues the annual Estonian Human Development Report.

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