

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and Mrs. Evelin Ilves left on a state visit to Spain today, where they will stay until Wednesday at the invitation of King Juan Carlos.

On July 9th, President Ilves and Mrs. Evelin Ilves will meet with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia and the Estonian Head of State will also give a speech at a conference organized by the Royal Elcano Institute at the European Commission Representation in Spain. On the same day, a meeting is planned with Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón Jiménez, the Mayor of Madrid. The day will end with a state dinner hosted by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia at the Royal Palace in Madrid.

On the morning of July 10th, the Estonian Head of State will lay a wreath at the Monument of May 2nd in the Plaza de la Lealtad. Meetings are planned with the Speaker of the Spanish Parliament, Manuel Marín González, Gerardo Díaz Ferran, President of the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE), and Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. On Tuesday evening, President Ilves and Mrs. Evelin Ilves will host a formal reception for the Spanish royal couple at El Pardo Palace.

On July 11th, President Ilves will participate in a Spanish-Estonian business seminar and meet with Jordi Hereu, the Mayor of Barcelona and José Montilla, the President of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

During the visit, Mrs. Evelin Ilves will visit the Royal Tapestry Factory, the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, and the Spanish Costume Museum, as well as the Gaudi House Museum in Barcelona.

President Ilves will be accompanied on the state visit to Spain by a 25-member business delegation, led by Toomas Luman, the President of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**President of the Republic started a state visit to Spain today**

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Office of the President  
Public Relations Department  
Phone +372 631 6229