

In Madrid today within the framework of a state visit, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with Manuel Marín González, the President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain, with whom he discussed questions related to European Union energy and migration policies.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Estonian Head of State acknowledged that he would be happy to see the cooperation between the Estonian and Spanish parliaments intensify—a Spanish friendship group operates in the Estonian Riigikogu, and last year, a Baltic friendship group was formed in the Spanish parliament.

Speaking about energy policies, President Ilves emphasized that the European Union should speak with a united voice.

As a topic important for Estonia and Spain as European Union border states, the problems caused by migration were also covered. “In addition to making border control more effective, it is important to paid attention to the causes of illegal immigration and deal with developmental issues,” noted the Estonian Head of State.

From the Congress of Deputies, President Ilves headed to the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain where the Head of State opened an Estonian-Spanish business seminar. Thereafter, President Ilves laid a wreath at the the Monument of May 2nd in the Plaza de la Lealtad. A meeting with Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero will take place at lunch.

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