At their meeting today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves told Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero that the two countries that are located at different ends of Europe are actually quite similar. "Estonia and Spain agree on many issues, and in respect to European Union cooperation, the goal of both countries is an undivided and strong Europe," said President Ilves.

At the meeting with the Prime Minister, both sides stated that the two countries must seek reciprocal investment opportunities more actively.

"The interest of Estonian businessmen in Spain is considerable," said the Estonian Head of State. "This is demonstrated by the Spanish business seminar organized last spring by the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the large number of businessmen on this state visit."

Energy policies and energy security issues were covered in depth at the meeting with the Spanish Prime Minister.

The Estonian state visit will continue tomorrow in Barcelona, where President Ilves will meet with Jordi Hereu, the Mayor of Barcelona and José Montilla, the President of the Generalitat de Catalunya. The Estonian Head of State will arrive back in Estonia late tomorrow night.

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