

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves invites everyone to the President Palace (A. Weizenbergi 39, Tallinn) on August 20th for an open house on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the restoration of Estonian independence. From 11 am to 2 pm, all those who wish will have the opportunity to see the portrait of Lennart Meri painted by Jüri Arrak and to visit the Palace Gardens; at 11 am, 12 noon, and 1 pm, tours of the palace will be organized. "The Palace Gardens are lovely in late summer, and we wish to share this beauty with the Estonian people on a day that is very important for Estonia," said President Ilves.

In the evening, the Estonian Head of State will organize a reception for about a hundred prominent Estonian cultural figures. With the reception President Ilves wishes to acknowledge the role played by the creative intelligentsia in the restoration and strengthening of Estonian independence. The list of invitees for the reception was prepared in cooperation with the artistic associations.

At the event, the Estonian Head of State will present a commemorative stone to a person that played an important role in the restoration of independence. "For 16 years, Estonia has been an independent country once again. To make sure that, as time goes by, we do not forget the role of those who held the fate of our country in their hands at the end of the 1980s and beginning of the 1990s, I am instituting a tradition to remember these people every year on August 20th," said President Ilves.

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