

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves received Thalia Petrides, the Ambassador of Cyprus, yesterday, who presented her credentials.

The Estonian Head of State expressed his sense of satisfaction regarding the decision of Cyprus to open an embassy in Estonia in 2008. Currently, Ambassador Thalia Petrides resides in Helsinki.

The economic relations between Estonia and Cyprus have been helped by the signing of an economic, scientific, technical, and industrial cooperation agreement, although there is still undoubtedly room for development. Estonia also wishes to promote cooperation in the field of tourism.

At the meeting with the Ambassador, questions relevant to the European Union were discussed at length. President Ilves noted that, similarly to Cyprus, Estonia supports the continued enlargement of the European Union, since previous enlargements have been successful in every possible way. However, Estonia stands firm on the position that accession criteria must be applied to all candidates equally and they must fully compile with these criteria.

President Ilves said that Estonia, similarly to the rest of Europe, is awaiting a resolution to the Cyprus question. He stated, "We wish to see a united and developing Cyprus, and an end to the division of the island that has existed since 1975."

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