

President Ilves' answer to the question by BNS: What would you recommend to your Government who has to decide on Thursday whether Nord Stream should be permitted to carry out research in Estonia's economic zone?

"Our consultations with both Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and Minister of Foreign Affairs Urmas Paet in this matter have been intensive and trustful. But I suppose you do agree that it would be strange for a President to start giving advice to the Government through the media.

Yet I wish to make it very clear: I hope that in Estonia, the solution of important foreign policy issues is not sacrificed for short-term partisan interests. Earlier, we have unfortunately seen short-lived partisan interests dictating Estonia's foreign policy decisions, we have also seen that this has not fortified our foreign policy situation - quite to the contrary. I wish that this time we could be saved another experience of that kind."

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