

At the UN General Assembly on September 25, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with Branko Crvenkovski, the President of the Republic of Macedonia.

“Estonia recognizes the reform aspirations of Macedonia, which is striving to be the economic tiger of the West-Balkans,” said President Ilves at the meeting.

He confirmed Estonia’s support for the so-called Open Door Policy of the European Union and NATO. Macedonia wishes to join both organizations in the future.

“Accession negotiations can start with the European Union as soon as the European Commission judges you to be ready,” said President Ilves. “And you can be sure that Macedonia also has Estonia’s support in the NATO direction.”

Presidents Ilves and Crvenkovski also spoke at length about the general political situation in the West-Balkan region and the status of Kosovo.

“Estonia supports the proposals for the status of Kosovo presented by Ahtisaari and recognize his work,” said President Ilves. “We think it is important that the European Union preserve internal unity during the course of the negotiations as well as in the subsequent period. We also support the coordination of efforts by the European Union, NATO and the United States.”

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