President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with George Soros in New York yesterday and thanked him for his contribution to democratic reforms and the promotion of free thought in the world and Estonia.

"Without your personal role, a large number of East European countries would not have progressed as far as they have, and there would be less democracy in the world," said the Estonian Head of State.

President Ilves and George Soros spoke of the latter's plans to open a European Council on Foreign Relations, the goal of which is to shape more uniform foreign policy concepts in Europe.

At the meeting, the efforts of George Soros and Estonia to help Georgia on the road to democracy were discussed.

President Ilves and George Soros were both also worried about the developments in Russia during the last few years.

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