Yesterday in Kadriorg, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with Thorbjørn Jagland, the President of the Norwegian Storting, with whom he discussed mutual relations, regional and security cooperation, and issues related to the European Union and Russia.

According to President Ilves, relations between Estonia and Norway are characterized by direct contacts and similar positions in many international issues. Joint membership in NATO has made cooperation even more effective, especially in the field of defence.

"We greatly appreciate Norway's contribution to building up Estonia's defence forces. Especially to the establishment and development of BALTDEFCOL as well as to the training of Estonian peacekeepers and its participation in the safeguarding of Baltic airspace," the Estonian Head of State told the speaker of the Norwegian parliament.

Summarizing European Union energy and security issues that were under discussion, President Ilves stated that working out a common energy policy is a priority for both Estonia and Norway.

Estonia and Norway cooperate closely in the fields of economics, culture and national defence. Traditionally good relations with Norway are reflected, among other things, by increasing mutual trade relations and the constant growth of Norwegian investments in the Estonian economy.

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