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Yesterday in Kadriorg, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves received Maasoum Marzouk, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who presented his credentials to the Head of State.

"Both Estonia and Egypt are located at the intersection of various cultures and religions," said President Ilves. "Estonia has been regarded as a bridge between the cultures and economic systems of the West and East, while Egypt is the link between Europe, Asia, and Africa, and its ancient history has intertwined various cultures."

The President of the Republic recalled that Egypt is one of the Estonians' favorite vacation spots for both its climate and culture.

"I am pleased to see that regular political consultations have started between the foreign ministries of Estonia and Egypt, which should promote political, economic and cultural relations between our countries," President Ilves declared, recalling that the first Estonian diplomat, whose mission is located in the Swedish Embassy building, is now also working in Egypt.

President Ilves and Ambassador Marzouk also spoke about the situation in the Middle East.

"Estonian considers the stability and normal development of this region to be important, and as a member of the European Union and NATO, we participate in finding solutions to the region's problems, as well as participating in civil and military operations," said the Estonian Head of State, acknowledging Egypt's leading role in the region and in the organizations of regional cooperation.

"Egypt is one of the European Union's most trustworthy and effective partners in the region, and as a member of the European Union, Estonia considers this very important," President Ilves added.

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