

On 1 February, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, the Foreign Minister of Cyprus.

The visitor introduced the positions of the Cyprus Government regarding the resolution of the island country's conflict, emphasizing that the quality of the resolution is more important than the speed.

During the discussion, it was recognized that one of the engines for the development of the two countries' relations could be faster development of tourism that would create preconditions for closer economic and political relations.

The future of the European Union was also discussed at the meeting. According to President Ilves, it is in the interest of all the countries in the Community that the ratification process for the Lisbon Agreement progress smoothly, and that the agreement comes into force before the deadline—January 1, 2009.

The Estonian Head of State and the Foreign Minister of Cyprus also spoke about the developments in Kosovo. President Ilves thought it important that the European Union preserve its leading role in the determination of Kosovo's status, while remaining united and cooperating closely with NATO, the United States and the local concerned parties.

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