

At today's meeting between President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and Albert II, the Prince of Monaco, the discussions focused on the future development of relations between the two countries.

"I am sure that your visit today and the opening of the Honorary Consulate of Monaco in Tallinn will help to increase the mutual repute of and interest in our countries," said President Ilves. "We think there are many opportunities for developing relations between Estonia and Monaco, including tourism, culture, science, knowledge-based economies, as well as information and communications technology."

The Estonian President recalled that Monaco devotes great attention to the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea. "This topic is also very important to Estonia as a country on the shore of the Baltic Sea," President Ilves declared. "I see opportunities for our countries to cooperation here, in the form of mutual experiences and exchanges of scientific research."

A good example of the cooperation between Estonia and Monaco to date is the joint activities in the International Hydrographic Organization, which is headquartered in Monaco, for guaranteeing navigational safety.

"We are also interested in closer economic contacts between Estonia and Monaco, and the appreciable enlivening of business and trade relations," President Ilves said. "I hope your visit to Tallinn will increase the interest of Monaco's entrepreneurs in economic and business ties with Estonia and will encourage them to make greater investments in Estonia."

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