

Yesterday in Kadriorg, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves received Florent Çeliku, the Ambassador of Albania, who presented his credentials to the Head of State.

President Ilves affirmed to the Ambassador that Estonia supports the further enlargement of the European Union and the accession of the Western Balkan countries upon their fulfillment of the necessary criteria. Estonia also places importance on the aspirations of Albania to join NATO.

"NATO membership assumes that a country is strong, sustainable, and democratic. I am glad to recognize that Albania is moving forward with reforms and I affirm to you that Estonia is ready to share its experiences in respect to accession to the European Union and NATO," said the Head of State at the meeting with the Ambassador.

Estonia has organized training for Albanian officials in the fields of information policy and reform of local governments, and has also advised the Albanian defense forces, police and judiciary.

At the meeting that followed the presentation of credentials, the Estonian Head of State and Albanian Ambassador also discussed the development of bilateral economic relations, which have been relatively modest to date. The question of the Republic of Kosovo, which Estonia recognized today, was also discussed at length.

According to President Ilves, mutual relations would be significantly strengthened by opening an Albanian diplomatic mission in Tallinn.

Ambassador Florent Çeliku resides in Warsaw.

Office of the President

The Albanian Ambassador presented his credentials to the President of the Republic

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