President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who arrived into Strasbourg to participate at the Plenary Assembly of the European Parliament, met today with Hans-Gert Pöttering, the President of the European Parliament.

At the meeting, the future of the European Union was discussed, with a focus on the Lisbon Treaty.

"It is in all our interests that the ratification process proceeds smoothly," President Ilves said. "The Estonian parliament should approve the Lisbon Treat this spring."

Presidents Ilves and Pöttering also spoke about developments in Russia, referring to the necessity for reciprocal and mutually respectful dialogues between Russia and the European Union, as well as between Russia and the member states of the Community.

Discussions at the meeting also included the greater opportunities for cross-border communications that have opened for the residents of the countries that joined the Schengen visa space last December.

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