

On April 13th, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and Evelin Ilves will travel to Ireland on a state visit at the invitation of Irish President Mary McAleese.

“The relations between Estonia and Ireland are warm,” President Ilves said, “We support similar goals in European development and both the Estonians and Irish are very European-minded. Both countries also have successful economic policies and a developed IT sector is familiar to both. Therefore we have common topics and many points of contact.”

At the meetings during the course of the visit, the energy security of the European Union, the future and further enlargement of the Community, as well as questions related to innovation and cybersecurity will be discussed. According to President Ilves, he would be very happy to see trade relations between Estonia and Ireland gain momentum. “I hope that this will be helped by the Estonian-Irish business seminar taking place during this visit,” he said.

On Monday, President Ilves and Evelin Ilves will meet Irish President Mary McAleese and Dr. Martin Aleese in Dublin, and will plant a tree in the park near the presidential residence together. On the same day, meetings with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, Senator Pat Moylan and Brendan Howling, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, are also planned.

On Tuesday, President Ilves will open an Estonian-Irish business seminar, visit the William Butler Yeats exhibition at the Irish National Library, meet with Dublin Mayor Paddy Bourke, and speak at the Institute of European Affairs. During the second half of the day, the Head of State will visit the James Joyce Center and open the architecture and history exhibition at the Office of Public Works Center. On April 16th, the Estonian Head of State will visit Ireland’s historical sights.

President Ilves will be accompanied on the state visit to Ireland by a business delegation, which will be led by Toomas Luman, the President of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**On Sunday, President Ilves will travel to Ireland on a state visit**

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