"Urmas Ott's departure causes a painful feeling of emptiness and a profound silence," President Toomas Hendrik Ilves wrote in the expression of sympathy that he sent early on Saturday morning to the family of the legendary television host and book publisher Urmas Ott.

"His interviews and books will continue to show us the sharply direct, outwardly very energetic and inwardly extremely sensitive Urmas Ott, who cared about his people and loved his country," the Head of State wrote.

"However, his last years are a story of the will to live and a belief that it is possible to defeat a gnawing and cunning enemy that it is still possible to live. And therefore, Urmas Ott's final departure—at a time when it already felt like he was getting on his feet again—is especially unfair."

Estonia will miss Urmas Ott, President Ilves wrote.

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