

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves presented Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen with the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st Class today, which was awarded to him in connection with the Estonian Independence Day.

The Prime Minister Rasmussen received the award for his support of Estonia and the other Baltic countries during their accession to the European Union and NATO.

“We are very grateful that you have always been a strong supporter of Estonia and we have not forgotten your help during Estonia’s accession to the European Union and NATO,” President Ilves said. “Your commitment played an important role in overcoming difficulties at that time.”

During the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2002, Denmark made a great contribution to the successful completion of the accession negotiations with ten candidate states, including Estonia.

Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen thanked President Ilves for the high-level recognition by the Estonian state and recalled that he was very happy when he was able to invite Estonia to become a European Union member state in 2002. “Denmark and Estonia are now strong partners and allies in the European Union,” he added.

At the meeting following the presentation of the decoration, President Ilves and Prime Minister Rasmussen discussed the global economic crisis, developments in the European Union and NATO, the Baltic Sea Strategy, Estonian-Danish relations, and the NATO’s most important foreign mission in Afghanistan.