

“The absolute pre-requisites for the success of the Reformist Party and IRL minority government – or any minority government – are real co-operation between the coalition partners and mutual trust,” the Head of State emphasised. President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met in Kadriorg yesterday with Mart Laar, the leader of Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL), a party in the government coalition.

“The absolute pre-requisites for the success of the Reformist Party and IRL minority government – or any minority government – are real co-operation between the coalition partners and mutual trust,” the Head of State emphasised. “Both parties are equally responsible for the government’s ability to work and its capacity to adopt decisions.”

The close and substantial co-operation between the minority government and the opposition parties of the Riigikogu are also important for the future of the state and the adoption of important decisions; it would be impossible or extremely difficult to adopt the required amendments to the state budget without such co-operation, stated President Ilves, adding: “Support outside the government is also required for as many people as possible to realise the purpose for which and why the specific cuts are necessary.”

Various options for balancing the state budget were also discussed at the meeting. According to the Head of State, it is important to adopt a realistic attitude regarding the elaboration of the state budget for 2010 and 2011, and the development of the respective principles should be undertaken immediately.

“These must be state budgets, very conservative, and free of any haunting election promises, and must help Estonia to emerge from this recession,” said the President.

President Ilves meets regularly with the leaders of parliamentary parties to discuss the domestic political situation.

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