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Traversing the city on foot, by bicycle or by car it soon becomes clear, however, that the Ülemiste Elder is unlikely to threaten the Estonian capital any time soon.

Not even today, when the mayor of Tallinn is due to declare the representative square of the city – and indeed of the entire country – officially open.

The years of discord and confusion surrounding Vabaduse väljak /Freedom Square/ are behind us. The ideas that prevailed have become reality, for everyone to see and assess for themselves.

What comes next is for us to do. It is up to us – Tallinn's residents, and visitors to the city – to give this space meaning, form and function.

What we see here around us shows that long-held debates can pay dividends – but only if words are transformed into action.

The new Vabaduse väljak will provide plenty of open space for pedestrians. As in many other capital cities and major centres, Tallinn too now has a place where the cars are underground and the space above has been freed up for people.

As the Head of State I consider it of great importance that the city now has such a representative place – one where we can recall those who have fallen for Estonia and think back on the roots of our freedom.

Tallinn now has a square where we can take pride in celebrating days that are special to us. Tallinn now has a place that will be a drawcard for guests of the state and every visitor to the city.

Vabaduse väljak is a place that will become known not merely for its panoramic views of the ancient towers and walls of the Old Town, over the distinctive wooden houses of Kadriorg and Kalamaja and out to sea, but as one of the symbols of the Estonian capital.

But first and foremost, it will be a place for the people of Estonia to come together. That is why I wish you all many a happy encounter on Vabaduse väljak!

Thank you.

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