

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with the women speakers of parliament from the European Union member states. In Kadriorg today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with the women speakers of parliament from the European Union member states.

The role of parliaments in democratic societies was discussed at the meeting, in which Barbara Prammer from Austria, Tsetska Tsacheva from Bulgaria, Ene Ergma from Estonia, Gerdi Verbeet from The Netherlands, and Katalin Szili from Hungary participated.

“The legislative body of a parliamentary democracy bears just as much, if not more, responsibility for the welfare of its country as the government, which is after all the executive power,” President Ilves stressed. “I have said repeatedly that the members of parliament in these countries must assume the power and responsibility that is rightfully theirs, and not surrender it, for instance, to governmental ministers.”

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