

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met today with the ambassadors of Japan, France, Italy and Turkey, who presented their credentials to the Estonian Head of State.

The promotion of bilateral relations and possible co-operation in the sphere of IT was discussed at the meeting with the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Hiroshi Maruyama, who resides in Helsinki. President Ilves invited the ambassador to visit the E-Academy, IT-demonstration centre and the NATO Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

At the meeting of President Ilves and the Ambassador of the Republic of France, Mr. Frédéric Billet, the discussion centered on the further enhancement of current friendly and good relations, particularly in the areas of defence and culture. The Estonian Head of State welcomed the return of France to the military structure of NATO and enquired about the views of France on the further development of NATO.

In meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Ms Rosa Maria Chicco Ferraro, the president recalled his official visit to Italy during the summer. According to the Head of State, Estonia and Italy enjoy close co-operation, which could be developed further in several areas. Estonia would especially like to see the strengthening of contacts in the sphere of economy, culture and education.

At the meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Ayşenur Alpaslan, the President congratulated the Ambassador and the state of Turkey on the Turkish public holiday. The meeting centered on bilateral relations between Estonia and Turkey and defence co-operation in NATO. The Estonian Head of State confirmed that Estonia supports Turkey's movement towards the European Union.

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