

“Estonia’s goal is to accede to the euro zone in 2011, and therefore, the Estonian Government has repeatedly cut costs to keep the budgetary deficit within the limits of the Maastricht criteria,” President Toomas Hendrik Ilves affirmed at his meeting yesterday with Joaquin Almunia, the EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs.

“I am sure that the government and parliament possess sufficient will and resolve to successfully complete Estonia’s path to the euro. And to do so sustainably,” President Ilves stressed. “I also believe that both the coalition and opposition share this objective.”

The EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia acknowledged Estonia’s budgetary policies, which have also earned praise from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Commission during the last year, especially in comparison with several other European Union member states. He also expressed the hope that Estonia will continue its conservative budgetary policies.

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