

“Serbia can rest assured – your pragmatic and rational efforts in approaching the EU has won you a number of established friends and supporters,” expressed President Ilves at the meeting with Vuk Jeremić, the Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs. “Serbia can rest assured – your pragmatic and rational efforts in approaching the European Union has won you a number of established friends and supporters,” expressed President Toomas Hendrik Ilves at today’s meeting with Mr. Vuk Jeremić, the Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who arrived in Estonia for a working visit.

President Ilves mentioned the decision of the European Union General Affairs Council to enforce the Interim Agreement to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Serbia, visa-free travel for the citizens of Serbia, and Serbia’s formal application to join the European Union.

“All of this demonstrates that we – both Serbia and the European Union – have the desire and willingness to take further steps along the path towards the future of our relations and neither is showing any signs of fatigue,” said the Estonian Head of State.

President Ilves hopes that the ratification process of the Association and Stabilisation Agreement between the European Union and Serbia can begin soon, and Estonia has already supported this at the European Union General Affairs Council.

The Estonian Head of State, who made a formal visit to Belgrade last October, characterised the relations between Estonia and Serbia as “close and reliable”.

“Serbia is Estonia’s largest trade partner in West Balkan today,” reminded President Ilves. “We’re interested in closer co-operation in two specific economic areas – information and communication technology and problems related to the use of oil shale; Viru Keemia Group and also Eesti Energia have shown interest in this area.”

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