"Estonia has always acknowledged friends who have been there for us during both the good and the complicated times," said President Ilves, as he handed over the decoration. President Toomas Hendrik Ilves today awarded the Danish Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. Per Stig Møller, with the 1st Class Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana in Kadriorg.

As the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2001-2010, Minister Møller was committed to supporting the European Union and NATO accession policies on behalf of Estonia and the other Baltic states, and he contributed to the successful completion of both accession processes.

"Estonia has always acknowledged friends who have been there for us during both the good and the complicated times," said President Ilves, as he handed over the decoration. "Your contribution to supporting the Baltic states is invaluable and definitely much greater than your position required."

The Head of State also acknowledged the book published by minister Møller in 1990 – Historien om Estland, Letland og Litauen – which helped to clarify the history and ambitions of the Baltic states at a time when very few were willing to take such an approach.

The President awarded Møller with Class I Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana on 3rd February 2010 with his respective resolution.

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