"We follow developments in Latin America with great interest and recognise Brazil's role in finding solutions to the problems in the region," said President Ilves, cooperation between the European Union and Latin America is gaining momentum. "Brazil, which is known to speak for the Latin American countries, plays a great role not only in the regional context, but much more globally," said President Ilves in yesterday's meeting with Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, whose visit is the first high-level visit ever paid to Estonia by a Latin American country.

"We follow developments in Latin America with great interest and recognise Brazil's role in finding solutions to the problems in the region," said the Estonian Head of State, who noted with pleasure that cooperation between the European Union and Latin America is gaining momentum.

"We have common challenges and we have to find solutions to them together: the economic crisis, drug trafficking, the fight against climate change, education, creating jobs, migration, achieving greater social balance," said President Ilves. "They all concern Latin American and European countries alike, including Estonia."

President Ilves and Foreign Minister Amorim also discussed boosting the modest economic relationships between the two states, because Brazil is the largest Latin American trade partner for Estonia. While Brazil has expressed interest in cooperation between ports and in Estonian building materials, Estonia has shown interest in oil shale energy, information and communications technology and tourism-related cooperation.

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