

At today's meeting, the President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, and the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, focused on possible options for development co-operation projects, including co-operation in Afghanistan. The possible alternatives for co-operation in the sphere of cyber defence were also discussed.

"We discussed possible options for development co-operation with Switzerland in countries such as Afghanistan, where Switzerland is currently operating via a number of development assistance organisations," President Ilves told.

"At present, Estonia is participating in the modernisation of the Afghan National Archive and supports the development of a health care system in Helmand. There is a number of alternatives for co-operating with Switzerland, as Afghanistan needs assistance in a number of spheres," said President Ilves.

President Ilves and Ms Calmy-Rey also discussed cyber defence, which is one of the most urgent security issues worldwide, and the possibility to co-operate in this sphere. "Only an intimate and close exchange of information allows one to achieve success in this sphere," President Ilves told.

President Ilves invited Switzerland to consider co-operation with the NATO Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, where Switzerland, being a non-NATO country, could participate on a project basis.

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