

The President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, met today with the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr. Yves Leterme, who arrived in Estonia for a working visit.

President Ilves and Prime Minister Leterme discussed security policy issues, including NATO's air security mission in the Baltic States in which Belgium also participates, and cyber defence. The Estonian Head of State invited Belgium to join the NATO Centre of Excellence for Co-operative Cyber Defence in Tallinn.

"NATO's cyber defence should not only focus on protecting the alliance's network, but, in addition, we need to consider the protection of the civil networks of the allies," President Ilves emphasised. "Without a doubt, more attention should be given to the co-operation between the European Union and NATO in the sphere of cyber security, which is only beginning and rather disorganised as of today."

The Estonian Head of State and the Belgian Prime Minister also discussed developments in the European Union and above all, the euro area, while they also focused on the recent events in North-Africa.

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