

“Close and regular co-operation between the Nordic countries can set an example on a much wider scale – for co-operation between the Baltic Sea countries,” said the President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, at a meeting with the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Mr. Halldór Ásgrímsson.

“Namely, the co-operation characterised by openness, knowledge and innovation will make the whole region stronger, more contemporary and successful,” emphasised the Estonian Head of State.

In the President’s opinion, the efforts of the Estonian representation of the Nordic Council of Ministers, which began in 1991, have been successful and efficient.

“We can see, more and more, how the cohesion of other regional initiatives improves; let’s take, for example, the Baltic Sea Countries’ Strategy, the internal market initiative of the European Union, N8 report on relations or the Baltic Sea Countries Council,” said the Estonian Head of State. “Here, we prefer long-term co-operation programmes, which would be consistent and sustainable.”

The function of the representations of the Nordic Council of Ministers in the Baltic states is to introduce the Nordic co-operation in general and work as the managers and administrators of specific co-operation projects and programmes. The main supported activities include public administration, entrepreneurship and industry, education and research, culture, and non-profit organisations.

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