

Today, 16 November, sees the release by Varrak publishing house of a compendium of writings and speeches given by Estonian president Toomas Hendrik Ilves during his first term in office entitled 'Greater Estonia: A Selection of the President's Speeches and Essays from 2006-2011'.

The compendium includes a key selection of the *ca* 400 speeches made and written works penned by President Ilves since 2006. Those it contains – four dozen in total – were chosen not only for the message they contain and the impact they had, but also and primarily to provide as comprehensive an overview of the issues that have influenced Estonian society and its citizens over the last five years.

“Looking back on them now, there are certain things I could have put differently, or been more precise about, and certain things I perhaps should have kept to myself,” says President Ilves in his foreword. “But at the time, and often under time pressure, these thoughts and views were expressed exactly as you see them here. Embellishing them or adjusting them in hindsight just wouldn't be honest. They were designed to be heard at a particular moment in time, when those listening had set themselves to receive them; when Estonia perhaps awaited them. I hope these speeches and articles continue to reflect those feelings in readers' minds for many years to come.”

The almost 400-page hardcover compendium was compiled and edited by Olari Koppel, Marek Tamm and Kaarel Tarand. It was designed by Dan Mikkin.

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