

This evening saw the beginning of a two-day meeting of the presidents of the Baltic states and Poland, initiated by the Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the head of this year's presidency of Baltic co-operation.

Dalia Grybauskaitė, Andris Bērziņš and Toomas Hendrik Ilves, presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, respectively, will discuss common transport and energy projects, regional security and the Baltic contribution thereto. Baltic Sea co-operation in general, not only within the context of the Nordic countries, as well as the financial future of the European Union will be discussed with the President of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski, who joined the meeting this evening.

Tomorrow, the Commissioner for Transport and Vice President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas, will present to the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish heads of state the Rail Baltica project, which is planned to connect the Baltic states with the rest of Europe.

“The Baltic states and Poland represent a regional force, which should be seriously considered; co-operation within the Baltic Sea region will make our voice even stronger,” stated President Ilves before the meeting. “Of course, this requires mature responsibility from all of us. As we joined NATO, we confirmed our commitment to being providers and not just consumers of security, and mature countries live up to their words. Only then will we have the right to expect similar approaches and equal treatment from other responsible countries of the European Union and NATO.”

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