

"The Repo factories are an example of giving true value to low-quality timber, not just burning it in a furnace," President Toomas Hendrik Ilves noted at Estonia's only particle board factory in Püssi.

Repo Vabrikud Plc (Repo Factories) with its 270 employees uses 300,000 cubic metres of low-quality roundwood and 60,000 cubic metres of saw dust from local producers per annum and produces nearly 220,000 cubic metres of particle board per annum, 90 per cent of which have melamine coatings, for 23 national markets, with a yearly turnover of 40 million euros.

Repo Vabrikud is willing to contribute to improving the local standard of living and competitiveness. The company built a boiler plant that can produce heat for the Püssi community from production leftovers, which should significantly reduce the local heating prices, as they are currently quite high. So far, the opening of the boiler plant has been delayed by bureaucracy.

When introducing the company, Tiit Kolk, Katrin Reinaste-Parve, Aivar Karon and Ahto Kruusimaa also spoke about founding their own combined heat and power station. The power plant is completed but its launch is being held up by proceedings between Elektrilevi and Elering.

"In a broader sense, Estonia needs the enterprising spirit that Repo Vabrikud has developed, also during difficult times," President Ilves said in recognition.

Furthermore, the efficient improvement of local life contributes to Estonia's success, as demonstrated by the village elder Ilmar Kangur with his son Guido Kangur at Rannapungerja village, where they have organised the annual Tuletorni (Lighthouse) concert since 2010, bringing excellent Estonian culture to the shore of Lake Peipus.

Today, the Head of State also visited the Avinurme Cultural Heritage Centre, founded five years ago with the help of Enterprise Estonia (EAS) with the aim to promote and preserve the unique woodworking culture, and develop and preserve the local way of life.

Yesterday, the President gave an open school lesson at the Virumaa College of Tallinn University of Technology in Kohtla-Järve, visited the fish products company OÜ Kirderand and met with the Objartel family, the promoters of local life in Vaivara.

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