

Today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will speak at the Slush conference on IT and startup companies held in Helsinki and will chair the meeting of the Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership in Berlin tomorrow.

At the Slush conference, which is being held in Helsinki for the sixth time, with experts and enthusiasts from across the world participating, President Ilves will speak about current challenges, threats and opportunities in IT, and he will introduce Estonian e-government, e-services and startup companies. In addition to the Estonian President, the speakers include several influential people, including the former CEO of Skype Niklas Zennström, former CEO of Nokia Jorma Ollila, and the Finnish Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen.

This evening, the Head of State will depart for Berlin to chair the meeting of the Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership, which aims to promote the use of cross-border digital public services in businesses and the public sector across Europe. The steering board headed by President Ilves includes several spokespersons and experts of the field, including Lèo Apotheker (former CEO of Hewlett-Packard), Christian Fredrikson (President and CEO of F-Secure Corporation), Hans Vestberg (President and CEO of Ericsson), Werner Vogels (Vice President of Amazon), Thierry Breton (CEO of ATOS) and Bernard Charles (President and CEO of Dassault Systèmes).

President Ilves became the head of the Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership last year at the request of the European Commission. The board's last meeting was held this summer in Tallinn.

After the meeting of the steering board, President Ilves will give an opening speech at the cloud computing conference "Readiness for Cloud Computing in the European Public Sector", which is being organised by the European Commission.

The Head of State returns to Estonia late on Thursday.

* Cloud computing means saving data (such as text files, images and videos) and software in

computers located further away, which users can access via the Internet on devices of their choice.

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