

# Estonian Review

E E S T I R I N G V A A D E

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## TOP STORIES

### The EU Promises to Help in Solving the Situation at the Estonian Embassy in Moscow

30 April - **Late Foreign Minister Urmas Paet with the European Union Presidency, Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.**

Foreign Minister Paet brought the situation at the Estonian Embassy in Moscow to the attention of the EU Presidency. "The Russian side has not made any attempts to ensure the security of the Estonian Embassy in Moscow or the security of its workers," said Paet. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier promised a rapid European Union response to help normalise the situation around the Estonian Embassy in Moscow.

Foreign Minister Paet also gave an overview of the Russian State Duma delegation's visit to Estonia. "We have demonstrated our good will in welcoming the State Duma delegation. However, the delegation has intervened in internal Estonian matters by demanding the resignation of the democratically elected government," stressed Paet.

### NATO Secretary General: the alliance supports Estonia

May 2 - **In telephone call to President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer confirmed the alliance's support for Estonia and expressed serious concern about Russia's behavior toward its neighboring state.**

"The relocation of a Second World War grave marker or monument is Estonia's internal affair," said the NATO Secretary General. He condemned the anti-Estonian propaganda campaign initiated by Russia as well as the interference of the Russian Federation in Estonia's internal affairs.

Scheffer said that Russia should immediately free the Estonian Embassy in Moscow from the blockade of demonstrators, terminate its violation of the Vienna Convention, and guarantee the security of Estonian diplomats.

The NATO Secretary General also expressed concern about the cyber attacks on Estonian state institutions originating from computers in Russia's governmental agencies.

## TOP STORIES

### Bronze Soldier Statue Stands in a Cemetery and is Accessible to the Public

Apr 30 - **The statue of the Red Army soldier removed from Tõnismägi has been erected at the cemetery of the Defence Forces in Tallinn.**

By now only the

bronze statue that makes up the centrepiece of the monument has been erected. The 1947 monument will regain its original shape when the limestone wall behind the statue has been rebuilt, probably in June. Also reburial of the soldier remains has been scheduled for June.

"Outbreaks of violence did not permit us leave the Bronze Soldier at Tõnismägi until May 9 and at a decision of the government it was removed to cemetery in order to ensure people and organizations to whom the Bronze Soldier symbolizes the victory in World War Two the opportunity of marking it with dignity," Defence Minister Jaak Aaviksoo said.

"The Republic of Estonia, like other member countries of the European Union, honours the memory of all victims of World War Two and has a high opinion of the contribution of the people he fought self-denyingly in the name of the crushing of fascism and Nazism against aggressive totalitarian regimes," Aaviksoo added.



**Bronze Soldier at the Cemetery of the Defence Forces, 1 May 2007.**

## TOP STORIES

### NATO Expressed Deep Concerned over Situation at the Estonian Embassy in Moscow

May 3 - **NATO is deeply concerned by threats to the physical safety of Estonian diplomatic staff, including the Ambassador, in Moscow, as well as intimidation at the Estonian Embassy.**

These actions are unacceptable, and must be stopped immediately; tensions over the Soviet war memorial and graves in Estonia must be resolved diplomatically between the two countries.

NATO urges the Russian authorities to implement their obligations under the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.

### Polish President Confirms Support for Estonia

May 1 - **Polish President Lech Kaczynski in a phone call to his Estonian counterpart Toomas Hendrik Ilves informed that actions had been undertaken in the EU in connection with the events that took place in the Estonian capital.**

Kaczynski assured Ilves of Poland's support for the actions of the Estonian authorities.

The communication between the two presidents was the second in two days. Ilves thanked Lech Kaczynski for solidarity and offered an update to the Polish president as regards the situation in Estonia.

The Polish president also on Sunday expressed support to Estonia in connection with the events of the last days and attacks by Russia.

A statement in support of Estonia urging joint action by the EU was made also by the Foreign Ministry of Poland.

### German Chancellor Expressed Support for Estonia

May 3 - **In telephone conversation with Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, Chancellor of Germany Dr Angela Merkel expressed her support for Estonia with respect to the country's relations with Russia.**

Ansip briefed Merkel on recent days' events in Estonia and Moscow, including the Russian State Duma delegation's visit to Tallinn.

Merkel was aware of the situation in Moscow and gave assurances that the EU presidency would do everything to make Russia meet its international diplomatic commitments. Russia must understand that they are under an obligation to ensure the security of diplomats, including ambassadors, in the host country.

### Finnish PM Critical of Russian Duma Members' Statement on Estonia

May 1 - **Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen has sharply criticized the words of members of the Russian State Duma lower house of parliament to the effect that the Estonian government should resign, saying that Finland and the EU should express support for Estonia.**

Vanhanen said that a demand for the resignation of a country's democratically elected government by

politicians from another country does not fall under the definition of international good practice.

Vanhanen said that in the case of the events in Estonia other countries were not interfering, and that this applied also to Russia. Estonia will decide on its own what to do with monuments, he said.

"We have to believe that Estonia can solve its own problems. But it is clear that if tensions arise in Estonia, if the Duma demands the government's resignation, this is something with regard to which Finland and all other countries of the European Union must show their support for and solidarity with Estonia," Vanhanen said.

Nikolai Kovalyov a member of the Duma delegation that was heading to Estonia, said before departure in Moscow that the Duma members are going to demand the resignation of Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and return of the World War II monument, the so-called Bronze Soldier, to its earlier location.

### Macedonia Expresses Support for Estonia

May 1 - **The foreign minister of Macedonia, Antonio Milošoski, made a phone call to his Estonian counterpart Urmaz Paet to express Macedonia's support for Estonia.**

Milošoski assured the Estonian minister of the full support of Macedonia and expressed hope that the security situation of the Estonian embassy in Moscow will improve.

Paet thanked his Macedonian colleague for support and gave an overview of the latest developments.

### Russia's Reaction to Estonia Inadequate - Lithuanian President

May 1 - **Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus, said that the reaction of Russia to the actions of the Estonian government which decided to remove the Bronze Soldier monument from the center of Tallinn and rebury the remains of soldiers was inadequate.**

In the words of Adamkus, Estonia performed the actions without violating the principles of international law and with due respect.

"There is no doubt that the memory of the soldiers who died must be respected. But the Soviet army did not bring freedom to the Baltic countries, so can we condemn Estonia if the remains of the Soviet soldiers will be moved from the central square of Tallinn to a cemetery?" the Lithuanian head said.

Speaking during the Brussels forum's discussion titled Russia -- Global State Back on Stage, Adamkus presented the Lithuanian stance on the role of present-day Russia in the region and in the world, underlining that Russia was a large and rich country whose influence surpassed its own borders.

"It is the old problem of Russia -- how to manage that influence. It causes concern that present-day Russia is slowing down its steps towards democracy," Adamkus said, explaining that this was the case in the spheres of human rights and freedom of the press, and was expressed in the concentration of power.

The panel also dealt with the new Russian foreign policy doctrine. "Lithuania would like to see a democratic and friendly Russia because such Russia

would have influence not only in terms of regional security but for global security as well," Adamkus said.

He added that unsolved problems near Russia's borders raised doubts as regards Russia's strength and will to solve old and painful problems together with the international community. The Lithuanian leader urged to search for new formats of cooperation with Russia.

The Brussels forum is an annual meeting of top-level US and European political leaders and intellectuals, which discusses the most significant challenges of international politics on both sides of the Atlantic.

### Georgian Parliament Speaker Expressed Support to Estonia

May 3 - **Speaker of the Estonian parliament Nino Burjanadze today called Speaker of the Estonian parliament Ene Ergma and expressed all-round support to Estonia.**

Burjanadze said that Georgia fully condemned the Russian inability to obstruct attacks against the Estonian embassy in Russia and against the ambassador.

"The Vienna Convention that ensures diplomatic security is grossly violated by these attacks," she underlined.

Burjanadze added that Russia's continued interference into Estonia's internal affairs violated many other international conventions and the Georgian parliament was planning to pass a statement in Estonia's support.

Ergma thanked Georgia for its support. Ergma said that support by Georgia, which had recently experienced Russian political and economic attacks, was very important for Estonia and drew the two countries even closer together.

### Foreign Minister Thanks Carl Bildt for Supporting Estonia

Apr 30 - **Estonian Foreign Minister Urmis Paet on Monday thanked Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt for his support.**

"Estonia is very thankful for Sweden's understanding and support," Paet was quoted by spokesperson for the Estonian Foreign Ministry as saying. "Our closest neighbours have daily confirmed their support and have given practical assistance," he added.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt on Sunday expressed regret for what has occurred in Tallinn, but also was convinced that Estonia would solve its problems on its own.

### EU's Foreign Policy Chief Voices Support for Estonia

Apr 27 - **EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana has voiced support for Estonia and denounced violence in the wake of a night of unrest in the capital Tallinn.**

Solana phoned President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and said the EU understands and supports Estonia.

Solana also condemned the street violence that erupted in Tallinn last night.

A peaceful demonstration against the removal of a Red Army monument from the center of the Estonian capital turned into violent riots and a

looting spree that left a trail of destruction in the city center.

### Estonian Ambassador to Moscow was Attacked

May 2 - **Estonian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Marina Kaljurand was attacked at a press conference in Moscow on Wednesday, 2 May.**

Ambassador Marina Kaljurand broke through the cordon of hooligans circling the Embassy to give a press conference at the offices of "Argumentõ i Faktõ". The Ambassador was attacked in the press conference room and gas was used. Rioting youths also attacked the Ambassador's car that was waiting outside. The youths proceeded to brutally tear off the car's Estonian flag.

Physical attacks on the Estonian Republic's diplomatic representative are unprecedented and absolutely unjustifiable. These attacks call for immediate actions from the international community.

The events clearly show that Russian authorities are blatantly violating the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

### Russian Youth Movements Blocked the Estonian Embassy

Apr 30 - **Members of Russian youth movements have blocked the streets on both sides of the Estonian embassy in Moscow, making it impossible for embassy staff members to leave.**

The majority of the people keeping up the blockade are members of the Russian youth movements Nashi (Ours) and Molodaya Rossiya (Young Russia).

The police was controlling the situation only so much as to keep the people a couple of meters away from the embassy.

Rocks and paint were thrown at the embassy building overnight and slogans such as "We reached Berlin, we'll reach Tallinn too" and likewise have been painted on the embassy's walls. Also, windows of the embassy were broken.

The members of the Russian youth organizations were playing loud music in front of the embassy day and night.

The young people were equipped with everything necessary to maintain round the clock presence, including portable toilets, a field kitchen and electricity supply. Tents have been pitched in front of the embassy in which the protesters are taking turns to sleep.

The siege came to an end on Friday, 4 May.

### Estonian Flag Torn Off Estonian Embassy in Moscow

May 1 - **The Estonian flag was torn off the Estonian Embassy in Moscow and shredded into pieces on 1 May. Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers this absolutely unacceptable.**

While the Estonian flag was desecrated, the Russian Duma delegation currently on a visit to Estonia admitted to the Secretary General of Estonian Ministry Foreign Affairs that the security of the Embassy could be restored in three minutes if Russian side only wished it.



Unwillingness of the Russian authorities to restore the security of the Embassy is incomprehensible as the Duma delegation conceded that this could be done very quickly.

### Consular Services Restored at the Estonian Embassy in Moscow on 4 May

May 4 - **As of Friday morning, 4 May, the consular services department of the Estonian Embassy in Moscow is fully operational as the Embassy's security situation has sufficiently improved.**

According to Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, the Foreign Ministry is continuously monitoring the situation. "We will make operational decisions with regards to the functioning of the consulate," stressed Paet. The Foreign Minister expressed hope that Russia would henceforth completely respect the Vienna Convention.

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet also spoke with the European Union Presidency Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The main discussion topic was developments regarding the security of the Estonian Embassy in Moscow.

### Russia has Launched a Cyber Attack Campaign Against Estonia

May 1 - **The cyber attacks of recent days aimed at paralyzing the work of the web servers of Estonia's state institutions originate from Russian state IP addresses, Estonia's Justice Minister Rein Lang said.**

Malicious attacks against Estonian web pages continued on Sunday and on Monday and there were attempts to bring the operation of the data communications network of state institutions to a halt, CERT Estonia (Computer Emergency Response Team of Estonia) said.

It said Estonia had kept up domestic internet traffic and visits to foreign web-pages were possible. However, the access of foreign users to the web-pages of government offices has had to be restricted to fight the attacks.

The attacks started on the late night of Friday, April 27.

### Foreign Minister Expressed Protest to the Russian Foreign Minister

May 2 - **Paet expressed protest to the Russian Foreign Minister over the attack against Estonian Ambassador to Moscow.**

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov over the telephone.

Foreign Minister Paet voiced strong protest over the attack against the Estonian Ambassador, which took place this morning in Moscow.

Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov affirmed that after last Friday's telephone conversation, the number of law enforcement officers positioned around the Estonian Embassy has been increased and several attacks have been prevented.

According to Foreign Minister Paet, the increased security measures have been insufficient and they need to be decisively increased.

### Foreign Ministry Shocked by the Behaviour of the Russian Duma Delegation

Apr 30 - **The Foreign Ministry expresses surprise over the behaviour of the Russian Duma delegation. The Russian delegation refused to participate in the programme that was approved by the head of the delegation, Leonid Slutski, the Vice-President of the State Duma's Foreign Affairs committee.**

The members of the Duma did not participate in planned meetings at the Foreign Ministry, where the planned discussion was to cover questions related to the negotiations on the Estonia-Russia war graves agreement.

Upon arrival, the members of the Duma began making unrealistic demands, such as demanding a meeting with arrested Estonian citizen Dmitri Linter.

In addition, the State Duma delegation refused to participate in a joint press conference with Riigikogu Vice-Chairman Kristiina Ojuland and Chairman of the Riigikogu's Foreign Affairs Committee Sven Mikser, where members of the diplomatic corps were invited to attend. The refusal to participate was explained by a demand to organise a press conference for the press behind closed doors in the Russian Embassy. This demand was based on the absurd assertion that all journalists would not have access to the press conference that was to be held in the Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry apologises for any inconveniences created by the Russian delegation for those journalists and representatives of the diplomatic corps who had come to attend the press conference.

The Foreign Ministry affirms that Estonia is always prepared and open to all contacts. However, it cannot agree with absurd statements and unreasonable demands.

"We have demonstrated our good will in welcoming the State Duma delegation. However, the delegation has intervened in internal Estonian matters by demanding the resignation of the democratically elected government," Foreign Minister Urmas Paet said.

### Estonian Foreign Minister Criticizes Russian Authorities, Media

Apr 29 - **Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet criticized the Russian authorities and media for biased nature of the policies and media coverage related to Estonia.**

Paet told reporters that Estonia has during the years since it regained its independence sought to have normal and good-neighbourly relations with Russia, whereas a similar wish has been absent on the part of Russia.

Neither the Russian president nor the prime minister or the foreign minister have visited Estonia during these 15 years, whereas the holders of the corresponding offices in Estonia have made visits to Russia.

As the minister said, Estonia's right to make its own choices, such as to join the European Union and NATO, is not accepted in Russia.

Already for a long time Estonia has had to hear harsh, malicious and inadequate allegations from high-ranking Russian officials about a resurgence of fascism in Estonia and a wish to revise the outcome of World War II.

"This is an absolute lie," Paet said. Paet referred to a link between these allegations and the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Russia. He also recalled that Russia didn't want to send its representative to be present during the identification procedures that have started in the area at Tõnismägi where the Red Army monument used to stand.

The Estonian minister was critical of the Russian media, saying that the media often forwarded malicious and false information.

As an example, he named a report by Interfax about Russian-speaking officers massively quitting the Estonian police force. He called on journalists to be objective.

### Russia Refused to Send Observer to Estonian Excavations

**Apr 26 - The Russian ambassador to Estonia, Nikolai Uspenski, informed the Estonian Foreign Ministry that Russia is responding negatively to the Estonian offer to send its observer to the excavations of soldier remains at Tõnismägi in Tallinn.**

Uspenski, who came to the Estonian ministry on his own initiative, said he had instructions to categorically refuse such an offer.

The Foreign Ministry expressed regret that official Russia was taking the locating of the graves of soldiers fallen in World War II as well as the identification and dignified handling of the remains with such indifference and apathy. The Foreign Ministry added, however, that the proposal to Russia remained in force.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that Estonia was carrying out the excavations and identification in full compliance with Estonian laws, international law and good practice.

### Rioters Loot Stores in Estonian Capital

**Apr 28 - Rioters rampaging in Tallinn's city center looted large number of stores, including alcohol stores on 26 and 27 April.**

Vandalism had been committed all over the city center, with stores attacked and cars parked on the streets attacked and windows of buildings smashed.

On its way the gang of looters had smashed windows of the Estonia Theater and the Estonian Academy of Arts and attempted to set fire to billboards.

Rioters also smashed the windows of stalls in the flower market in Viru Street and were stealing roses from the kiosks. In Viru Street the windows of many stores were broken.

Acts of vandalism were committed also in the town of Jõhvi in northeastern Estonia. There are about a couple of hundred people roaming about the town, hurling rocks at storefronts and vehicles.

Rioters in Jõhvi mostly appeared to be people from the nearby Russian-populated cities of Narva and Sillamäe. An angry crowd was chanting anti-Estonian slogans in the town center, roads were congested and extensive damage had been inflicted on property. People on mopeds and motorcycles were driving around the town, flying Russian flags.

### Estonian Legal Chancellor: Those Taken into Custody Made no Complaints During Inspection

**May 1 - Meeting with the Russian State Duma delegation in Tallinn, Estonian Legal Chancellor Allar Jõks said the during his inspection of the people held in custody they had made to him no complaints concerning the violation of human rights.**

Jõks also asked for concrete information about all violations in order to carry out an objective proceeding.

Jõks told the State Duma representatives that he had access to all institutions where people were detained.

Representatives of the Russian delegation inquired whether Jõks had met with Dmitri Linter, one of the leaders of Night Vigil and in what conditions he was being kept.

"I was in Linter's cell during my inspection on April 29. I had a conversation with him in Russian and asked whether he had any complaints, as I had received information about his health condition," Jõks said.

"Linter was in a similar cell as all others and he did not make any complaints to me concerning the conditions of his detention or use of excessive force," he added.

The Russian delegation said that its main concern was the conditions of detention at the Port of Tallinn terminal, saying that youngsters aged 12-15 and elderly people were kept there with their hands tied behind the back and beaten.

Members of the delegation asserted that they had oral confirmation and video material concerning this. In the opinion of the Russian representatives this was the most blatant violation of human rights in Estonia's recent history. The delegation asked from the legal chancellor an independent, objective and thorough investigation concerning the said violation of human rights.

Jõks explained to the delegation that people must not be detained long in such temporary conditions, not for more than 24 hours. But as people were kept in those conditions for a short time, this cannot be regarded as a breach of law.

"If you can give me the names of the persons and concrete information about violations, where people have been treated in a inhuman way, I assure you that I will take a proceeding today," the legal chancellor added. "I can take a proceeding if I know the persons' complaints and their personal data."

The legal chancellor added that he would conduct an independent and unbiased proceeding without pressure from any direction.

"I hope for the support, understanding and readiness of all parents and teachers to explain both at home and at school that participation in gross violation of public order leaves a stain on the whole life of a young person, or at least of those who want to live in Europe," Ilves said.

He asked everyone to refrain from provocative and incendiary opinions and appeals that sow confusion.

"The Republic of Estonia does not need coarse, hatred-inciting comments, nor does it need gloating statements pursuing political gains," he said. "I urge everyone to show common sense and sober calculation."

## Estonian President: Overnight Rioters were Criminals

Apr 27 - **Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves called the overnight looters in Tallinn criminals and encouraging the government in its efforts to protect public order.**

"What we saw last night in the center of Tallinn was vandalism, rampaging, looting," the president said in a live appearance. "It was a crime and those who took part in it are criminals."

All this had nothing to do with peace of the burial site or keeping the memory of World War II dead alive, the president stated.

The criminals who went on the rampage in Tallinn were bound together not by their ethnic origin but by a wish to make a row, wreak havoc and loot, Ilves said.

"I apologize to those who began to doubt last night whether the state is able to protect them against rioters," the president added.

The state cannot hesitate or dither when order and security has to be restored, Ilves said.

"But don't look for an accusation in my words," the head of state added. "They are meant to encourage the government to act resolutely in maintaining the security of all of us."

The rioters will be tracked down, their guilt will be proven, and they will be punished swiftly and harshly, Ilves said. "The grindstones of a law-governed state turn inexorably," he said.

The president thanked all the police officers who were at work last night in the capital city. One of them, a female officer who sought to prevent the looting of a kiosk, lies at present in hospital with a fractured bone, he noted.

## FOREIGN NEWS

### Estonian Foreign Minister: Comments by Russian President on CFE are Regrettable and Misleading

Apr 26 - **Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet said on Thursday, that he deplores any statement that undermines the trust towards existing arms control instruments or endeavours to renounce the obligations assumed by countries.**

According to the Foreign Minister, Estonia has repeatedly expressed readiness to join the Adapted Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty once the ratification process is completed and the Treaty has entered into force. "President Putin should know that Conventional Armed Forces Treaty is not in force, because it has not been ratified by all the parties," Paet noted. "Most of the countries have not ratified the treaty because Russia has not met its Istanbul obligations of withdrawing its armed forces from Georgia and Moldova" he added.

In the opinion of the Foreign Minister, until the Treaty enters into force, Estonia can only remind Russia of its obligations. "Only then can the Treaty be ratified and brought into force, which would then provide the opportunity for other countries to join the Treaty," Paet said.

### Estonian, German Parliament Leaders Voice Concern over Russian Human Rights Situation

Apr 19 - **The chairwoman of the Estonian parliament and the visiting deputy speaker of**

### Bundestag, the national parliament of Germany, expressed concern about the deepening antidemocratic tendencies in Russia.

The German speaker, Susanne Kastner, noted with regret the cruel suppression of democratic rights at dispersion of public demonstrations in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

"Such action is deplorable," she said. "Russia's treatment of human rights does not befit a democracy," she said.

Germany has already expressed its indignation over the abovementioned incidents, Kastner recalled.

"It is by no means our wish to leave the impression that because of economic interests we are not seriously criticizing human rights violations in Russia," she underscored.

Ene Ergma, speaker of the Estonian parliament, noted at the start of the meeting that Estonia and Germany have for long enjoyed excellent relations but added that these relations certainly can be developed further.

National parliaments have an important role to play also in the European Union, currently for instance by providing positive support for the future of the Constitutional Treaty, Ergma said.

She recalled that Estonia ratified the treaty establishing a constitution for Europe on May 9, 2006. Kastner agreed that it is necessary to find a solution satisfying all members of the 27-nation bloc to move ahead with the stalled treaty.

Despite the close contacts enabled by the modern information society, most members of Bundestag are not sufficiently informed about the background of Russia's frequent propaganda attacks against Estonia and other smaller nations, and in this regard more extensive cooperation is possible, Kastner added.

### Estonian President Attended Yeltsin Funeral

Apr 25 - **Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves travelled to Moscow to attend the funeral of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin.**

"We owe to President Yeltsin one of the biggest geopolitical favours of the 20th century, because his bravery and resolution in August 1991 -- during the conservatives' coup attempt -- heralded destruction to the Soviet Union as a totalitarian regime and gave freedom to tens of millions of people," the Estonian president said.

Ilves added that Yeltsin opened the door of democracy for Europe, letting in the freedom of speech and market economy, everything the Russian people had been deprived of until that time.

"Several of his reforms could be a model for Russia today," he said.

The president said that Estonia owes gratitude to Yeltsin for his assistance and support in the restoration of Estonian independence and its recognition.

"President Yeltsin showed, and it is particularly important to remember it now, how a large country can understand the aspirations of its small neighbour, and there was greatness in Boris Yeltsin to recognize Russian history as it was," the Estonian president said.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry was represented at the funeral by Ambassador Marina Kaljulaid.

## ECONOMIC NEWS

### Currency rates in kroons:

[http://www.eestipank.info/dynamic/erp/erp\\_et.jsp](http://www.eestipank.info/dynamic/erp/erp_et.jsp)

(Bank of Estonia)

### Estonia's Government Surplus EU's Third-Largest in 2006

Apr 23 - **Estonia's government surplus in 2006, at 3.8 percent of gross domestic product, was the third-largest in the European Union, it appears from preliminary data by the bloc's statistical office Eurostat.**

Larger government surpluses than in Estonia were recorded in Denmark and Finland, respectively 4.2 and 3.9 percent of GDP, the Finance Ministry reported.

Latvia's budget surplus was 0.4 percent of GDP. Hungary had the largest deficit in percentage of GDP -- 9.2 percent. The average surplus for the EU27 was 1.7 percent of GDP.

Estonia's government debt decreased by 0.4 percentage point year-on-year to 4.1 percent of GDP, remaining the lowest among EU member states. The 27-nation average was 61.7 percent of GDP. Latvia's government debt was 10 percent of GDP.

### Estonia Has 123 Percent Mobile Communication Penetration

Apr 19 - **The penetration of mobile communication services in Estonia was 123 percent as of the end of last year.**

"There's no reason to believe that the percentage has fallen during Q1 2007. Rather, we can presume that the percentage grew by a couple of percent," Marge Ensling from the Communication Board said.

According to the number of clients and market share of Estonia's biggest mobile communication operator, EMT, the mobile communication penetration was 118 percent as of the end of Q1 this year. The calculation was based on the number of population, 1,342,000 according to the Statistical Office.

As of the end of the quarter EMT had 763,000 clients and the estimated market share on the basis of SIM cards was nearly 48 percent.

Mobile communication penetration in Estonia crossed the 100 percent line in 2005.

### Austrian Airlines to Launch Flights to Tallinn as of June

Apr 18 - **Austrian Airlines will launch flights on the Tallinn-Vienna route as of June 4.**

The code sharing flights in cooperation with Estonian Air will take place on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

By adding flights to Tallinn to its earlier timetable Austrian Airlines will be providing services in the whole Baltic region; in the two other Baltic capitals services of the carrier were available before. Austrian Airlines flies twice daily from Vienna to Riga and once daily to Vilnius.

Austrian Airlines has had flights to Tallinn before -- from October 1997 until mid-2003.

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