

## President of Latvia and Estonian Foreign Minister stress the need to tighten EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus

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Today, President of Latvia Egils Levits received Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Estonia, Eva-Maria Liimets, who is in Latvia in scope of her courtesy visit, in the Riga Castle.

Egils Levits and Eva-Maria Liimets opened the meeting by exchanging the latest information about the efforts of Latvia and Estonia to curb the COVID-19. Both officials expressed their pleasure at finding an amicable cross-border cooperation arrangement for Valka and Valga.

Current situation in Belarus and Russia was another topic discussed by the President of Latvia and Estonian Foreign Minister. The need for European Union (EU) to tighten collective sanctions was underlined in the light of illegal and violent persecution of protesters and people peacefully and democratically expressing their views.

Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund was another topic of the meeting. It was emphasised that this is another tool for strengthening cooperation between European and Transatlantic partners.

Estonian Foreign Minister shared her experience of representing Estonia in the UN Security Council (UNSC) and future priorities of Estonia towards the UNSC. Egils Levits thanked Estonia for sharing experience and being active on UNSC and pointed out that this experience will be useful for Latvia on its way to becoming a non-permanent member of the UNSC in 2025-2026.

Minister Liimets also mentioned that Estonia has applied for becoming an observer on the Arctic Council and specifically stressed the benefits of scientific and research cooperation.



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