

Toomas Hendrik Ilves

President of the Republic of Estonia



President of the Republic of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves was born on the 26th of December, 1953, in the Swedish capital Stockholm, and has spent much of his life living and working in a total of five different countries. The Estonian values prevalent in his childhood home, the education gained at one of the US' s best universities, the jobs connected with Estonia's present and future over the last quarter of the century – this is what has shaped Toomas Hendrik Ilves as a person and president of a small European country in the 21st century.

Born on December 26, 1953 in Stockholm, Kingdom of Sweden

Married to Evelin Ilves

Children: son Luukas Kristjan (1987), daughters Juulia (1992) and Kadri Keiu (2003)

Education

1978 Pennsylvania University (USA), MA in psychology

1976 Columbia University (USA), BA in psychology

Career and public service

2006- President of the Republic of Estonia

2004-2006 Member of the European Parliament

2002-2004 Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia

1999-2002 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Estonia

1998 Chairman, North Atlantic Institute

1996-1998 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Estonia

1993-1996 Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico

1988-1993 Head of the Estonian desk, Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany

1984-1988 Analyst and researcher for the research unit of Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany

1983-1984 Lecturer in Estonian Literature and Linguistics, Simon Fraser University,

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Vancouver, Canada

1981-1983 Director and Administrator of Art, Vancouver Arts Center, Canada

1979-1981 Assistant Director and English teacher, Open Education Center, Englewood, New Jersey, USA

1974-1979 Research Assistant, Columbia University department of Psychology, USA

Publications

Compilation of speeches and writings from 1986-2006: "Eesti jõudmine. Kõned ja kirjutised aastast 1986-2006". Varrak, 2006 Tallinn.

Articles in Estonian and other newspapers and magazines.

Involvement in Civic Groups

Member of the Estonian Students Society ([Eesti Üliõpilaste Selts](#)) 1995

Member of the [Trilateral Commission](#) 2004-2006

Member of the Board of Trustees of think-tank [Friends of Europe](#) 2005

Founder of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute ([Eesti Välispoliitika Instituut](#)), Member of the Executive Committee until 2002

Honorary Member of the [Latvian Students Society "Austrums"](#)

Member of the Board, Viljandi County Municipal Fund

Board of Trustees, [Estonian Academy of Arts](#) 2004-2006

President of the Estonian Special Olympics 1997-2004

Member of the Board of Trustees of Tartu University 1996-2003

European Movement Estonia (EME) Member of the Board, Founding Member 1999-2004

Honorary Member of the Estonian Society in Belgium 2006

Decorations

1999 Knight First Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

1999 Grand Cross of the Order of Honour of Greece

2001 Grand Commandeur Legion d'Honneur of the Republic of France

2004 The Order of the National Coat of Arms third Class (Estonia)

2004 Three Star Order of the Republic of Latvia

2006 The Collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana (Estonia)

2006 The Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath of Great Britain

2007 Order of the White Rose of Finland

2007 The Golden Fleece Order of Georgia

2007 Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum of Japan

2007 The Order of Isabel the Catholic with the collar of Spain

2008 The Collar of the The Order of the National Coat of Arms (Estonia)

2008 The Order of Vytautas the Great with the Golden Chain of Lithuania

2008 Grand Cross in the Order of the Netherlands Lion

2008 Grand Cordon Leopold of Belgium

2009 Chain of the Three Star Order of the Republic of Latvia

2009 The Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary

2010 The Order of St. George of Georgia

2011 National Order Star of Romania in rank of Collar

2011 "Dostyk" (Friendship) the Star of Award I of Kazakhstan

Foreign languages

English, German, Spanish