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PRESIDENTS OF ESTONIA AND LATVIA MEET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CLINTON



Latvian President Valdis Zatlers, Secretary of State of the United States Hillary Clinton, and Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves in Berlin, 8 November. © US State Department

Ilves, Zatlers Discuss Transatlantic Relations with Clinton

8 November - **This evening President of the Republic of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves and Head of State of Latvia Valdis Zatlers met with Secretary of State of the United States of America Hillary Clinton in Germany.** President Ilves is in Berlin to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The meeting, which was initiated by Secretary of State Clinton, focused on trans-Atlantic relations and several international key issues. The secretary of state and the presidents of Estonia and Latvia said that NATO's security is indivisible and this is equally ensured to all members of the alliance.

According to President Ilves, the relations between Estonia and the United States, like the other Baltic states and Eastern Europe, are laid down on a strong foundation. However, in a situation in which many of the old problems of Eastern Europe have been resolved and both the European Union and NATO have expanded considerably, efforts must be made on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to maintain the special relations that have prevailed between the United States and East-European countries for the past 15 years. We do believe that this serves the interests of both of us," emphasised the Estonian head of state.

The new strategic concept of NATO, which is to be based on visibility, credibility and pressure, was also discussed at the meeting. Presidents Ilves and Zatlers and Secretary of State Clinton discussed the situation in the Balkans as well as Macedonia's and Serbia's prospects for accession to the European Union.

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FOREIGN NEWS

Prime Ministers Summed Up Baltic Co-operation for 2009

6 November - **Today in Vilnius the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Prime Ministers, Andrus Ansip, Valdis Dombrovskis and Andrius Kubilius, met and summarised Baltic co-operation for this year.**

When speaking about the economic crisis, it was agreed that on the global level the crisis is receding, but regionally continuous efforts need to be made for the recovery of the economy. Among other things, it was agreed that in all three countries aspirations towards the fastest possible adoption of the Euro will continue. The prime ministers confirmed the importance of the Maastricht criteria in establishing a sustainable economic environment.

With regard to energy co-operation, Prime Minister Ansip stated that he places great importance on the establishment of the Baltic energy market, which would be a part of the common Nordic-Baltic energy market. "Estonia is interested in the establishment of an actual working open electricity market," he stressed. According to the prime minister, the most important prerequisite for the establishment of a common market area in the Baltic States will be the adoption of the principles used on the Nordic market, the harmonisation of legislation regulating electricity trade with EU rules and the formation of a common policy with regard to electricity supplies originating from third countries.

The Estonian prime minister declared again that Estonia wishes to diversify the energy capacities of the country and is still interested in quickly moving forward with the Visaginas nuclear energy plant project.

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Clinton

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"The success of these reforming countries ultimately serves the interests of all of us, both the European Union and the United States of America," said President Ilves. "Macedonia and Serbia will continue to need our support and understanding and it is our opportunity and duty to speed up their success story."

When discussing the situation in the most important NATO operation in Afghanistan, everyone assured that the alliance must neither tire nor hesitate there.

"We will continue despite the difficulties and are convinced that NATO will be successful," said President Ilves, who also emphasised the need to increase civil contribution to Afghanistan, which is required for both the political and economical reconstruction of the country.

Prime Ministers

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With regard to defence co-operation, the prime minister stated that due to the drop in gross domestic product, defence expenditures have been decreased in all three Baltic States, but once the situation improves, the proportion of defence expenditures will once again be increased to the level agreed upon internationally.

In 2009, Lithuania will lead Baltic co-operation. The presidency rotates annually, with Estonia holding the presidency last year, and Latvia assuming the presidency next year. The co-operation is divided into parliamentary co-operation, which is represented by the Baltic Assembly; intergovernmental co-operation, which takes place in the framework of the Baltic Council of Ministers; and the co-operation of the three Baltic presidents, which has been formalised in the Baltic Presidents Council.

Estonian Head of State Met with President of European Parliament

6 November - **"It is an historical week, as Europe finally approved the Treaty of Lisbon, paving the way towards making the European Union considerably stronger and more rational,"** said President Toomas Hendrik Ilves at his meeting with President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek. "We are looking forward to the enforcement of the agreement on 1 December."

The Estonian head of state and the president of the European Parliament discussed the necessary steps to be taken after the Treaty of Lisbon enters into force, one of these being fulfilling the post of the President of the European Union.

"I hope to see a person who will not divide Europe into large and small, new and old countries, but rather will see the member states of the European Union as equals, and a president who is capable of identifying and understanding the concerns of all," said the Estonian head of state.

Presidents Ilves and Buzek emphasised the importance of strengthening the geographical balance of the union when assigning important positions in the European Union – this would help to

unite Europe and is, therefore, important for both Europe and its citizens.

Jerzy Buzek introduced the Estonian head of state to the schedule for appointing the new European Commission; hopefully, the procedure will be completed just before Christmas.

When speaking about of the European Union foreign service, President Ilves emphasised the need to establish the service by adopting methods, which would make the voice of the European Union stronger, more audible and uniform. "If we act successfully, this would really mean a common foreign and security policy as well as a common energy policy for the European Union," Mr. Ilves added.

Presidents Ilves and Buzek discussed the eastern partnership of the European Union, aimed at encouraging and promoting the neighbouring countries of the union to introduce both political and economic reforms.

The president of the European Parliament congratulated the Estonian head of state for the approval of the Baltic Sea Strategy by the European Commission, recalling that to date, this is the only strategy initiated by the European Parliament that has become official policy of the union and which was, among others, initiated by Toomas Hendrik Ilves during his office as a member of the European Parliament.



President Toomas Hendrik Ilves with President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, 6 November.

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Estonia to Open Embassies in Tel Aviv and Cairo

5 November - **Today the government endorsed the decision to establish embassies of the Republic of Estonia in Tel Aviv, Israel and Cairo, Egypt.** The Estonian Embassy in Tel Aviv is scheduled to be opened in November of this year already, while the embassy in Cairo will be opened in the first half of next year.

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet stressed that these will be Estonia's first embassies in Africa and the Middle East. "Opening embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv is essential to both Estonia's foreign relations and to Estonian citizens," said Paet. "With the help of the embassy, we can help Estonian citizens who are visiting the region or who would like to do business there—by giving consular aid and mediating contacts in the economic, educational, cultural, research, and other sectors," he explained.

Paet added that Estonia's representation on-site in Israel and Egypt will allow it to promote

information exchange and co-operation with those nations and will also create better opportunities to increase awareness and Estonia's foreign political communication in the Middle Eastern and African regions in general. "Opening embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv simultaneously is an important sign of the fact that Estonia is interested in resolving problems in the Middle East and would like to actively participate in achieving regional and global stability," Paet noted. The foreign minister added that having Estonian representations in Middle Eastern and Arabic countries will facilitate our participation in the European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy.

The Estonian Embassy in Cairo will be located in the same space as the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia. "This will help to cut expenses, especially since work assignments can also be shared. For example, the Latvian consul will issue visas to citizens in the region who are travelling to Estonia," Paet explained.

Estonia has had special missions in Cairo and Tel Aviv since 2007, and one goal of these was to prepare for the opening of an embassy. Adapting the special missions to become embassies does not require any additional costs. The staff of each embassy will remain one diplomat and one technical staff.

The Estonian Ambassador to Israel is Aino Leppik von Wirén and to Egypt is Tiia Miller, both of whom currently reside in Tallinn. Aino Leppik von Wirén and Tiia Miller will remain the non-residing ambassadors until residing ambassadors are named.

Ilves: Future Enlargement of European Union is in the Interests of Community

6 November - **"The European Union has the opportunity, and also the responsibility, to support and assist those European countries that have chosen democracy and a path towards the Community," President Toomas Hendrik Ilves said at a meeting with the EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn yesterday.**

The Estonian head of state expressed his satisfaction at the recent agreement reached by Croatia and Slovenia, which enables Croatia to continue its accession talks with the European Union while providing a way to resolve the border dispute between the two countries. He acknowledged the European Commission for its activities in brokering the agreement.

"Such an extremely positive development should serve an incentive, for instance, to overcome the obstacles hindering the progress of Macedonia* and Serbia. Cases where we can currently see a reserved attitude on behalf of some members of the Community," President Ilves said.

"It is the European Union's responsibility to see that the reforming countries – and Macedonia and Serbia are definitely among them – do not tire or lose sight of their future goals. This could result in unwanted consequences for both the European Union and these countries themselves," the Estonian head of state warned. "I am confident that we will overcome all this and we are heartened by the success stories of the past enlargements of the Community."

* Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Foreign Ministry Encourages Businesses to Actively Communicate with Foreign Representations

7 November - **At his meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Estonian Employers Confederation, and Enterprise Estonia, Foreign Minister Urmas Paet emphasised that in order to promote Estonia's economic interests abroad it is essential to have co-operation among all partners.**

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet stated that one of the Foreign Ministry's goals is to support the interests of Estonian businesses abroad in finding investments and export opportunities. "In order to better aid Estonian businesses working abroad, it is essential to have multi-faceted co-operation with organisations that bring together enterprises—the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Estonian Employers Confederation, and Enterprise Estonia—because only in this way can we support Estonian entrepreneurs most effectively," said Foreign Minister Paet.

At the meeting, the foreign minister gave an overview of the Ministry's activities in the economic diplomacy sector. Paet stated that the Foreign Ministry has actively used the network of Estonian honorary consuls in order to expand and support Estonia's economic interests. "We have turned to the honorary consuls and proposed that they contribute ideas, information, contacts, and direct investments," Paet explained.

Paet added that the Foreign Ministry's work with many countries has recently resulted in the signing of agreements for the facilitation and protection of investments. "Agreements for the facilitation and protection of investments have recently been signed with Morocco, Vietnam, and Belarus. Negotiations over agreements have ended with Georgia and Jordan, and hopefully those agreements will be signed soon," said Paet.

In talking about the Foreign Ministry's activities, the foreign minister pointed out the fact that the Foreign Ministry also strives to intensify relations with associations that bring together Estonian entrepreneurs abroad. "Our embassies have supported and continue to support information exchange between such associations," said Paet. "The Foreign Ministry recommends that Estonian entrepreneurs turn to Estonian foreign chambers of commerce to receive first-hand information about what's going on in the foreign country," Paet emphasised.

Foreign Ministry Sending Short-Term Consular Mission to Australia

8 November - **The Foreign Ministry will be sending a short-term consular mission to Australia from 29 November – 7 December 2009.**

Within the course of the consular mission it will be possible for all Estonian citizens who live in Australia to apply for new passports or ID cards. In connection with the new fingerprinting requirement, starting on 29 June 2009 it is necessary for all passport applicants to appear in person at an Estonian foreign representation or a Citizenship and Migration Board location in Estonia. The closest Estonian Embassy to Australia is located in Tokyo, so in order for Estonian citizens living in Australia to

be able to apply for passports without travelling to Tokyo the Foreign Ministry is sending a consular mission to Australia.

In accordance with the Consular Act, consular missions are sent to nations where Estonia lacks a foreign representation but there is a justified need for consular services because, for example, there is a large community of Estonian citizens there. It is estimated that the sixth-largest community of Estonians and their descendants in the world is in Australia, after the USA, Canada, Finland, Sweden and Russia.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Opens 112th Honorary Consulate in Norway



Honorary Consul Eivind Lund, Estonian Ambassador to Norway Arti Hilpus, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Marten Kokk, and Mayor of Kristiansand Per Sigurd Sørensen in Kristiansand, 9 November.

9 November - **Foreign Ministry Secretary General Marten Kokk opened Estonia's 112th honorary consulate in Kristiansand in the Kingdom of Norway. The Estonian honorary consul in Kristiansand is Eivind Lund.**

Marten Kokk stated that Kristiansand in Norway is a region with rapid economic development and the opening of a new honorary consulate will certainly help to intensify economic relations between Estonia and Norway. "Our new honorary consul would like to help enliven business and, above all, tourism contacts between Estonia and Norway. The new Estonian honorary consul is also interested in promoting student exchanges between the countries," said Kokk.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Kokk stated that this is the fourth Estonian honorary consulate in Norway and the first honorary consulate located in the southern part of Norway. "Expanding the network of honorary consuls is important for Estonia, because the honorary consuls play an essential role in deepening bilateral contacts in the economic, cultural, educational, and tourism sectors. Honorary consuls also provide Estonian citizens with consular aid," said Kokk.

The consular region of the new honorary consul includes Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder counties. The honorary consulate is located in the Hotel Norge at the address Dronningens gate 5, PB 729, 46666 Kristiansand, Norway. The honorary consul can be

reached by phone at +(47) 38 17 40 00 or by email at eivind.lund@hotel-norge.no.

Eivind Lund was born in Norway in 1977. He has studied economic and marketing and is currently engaged as an entrepreneur in real estate and the hospitality sector. Eivind Lund's main responsibility at the moment is as the marketing director of the Hotel Norge in Kristiansand. In addition, Lund is a board member and shareholder of various stock corporations. The honorary consul speaks Norwegian and English.

DEFENCE NEWS

Aaviksoo Attended Meeting of Nordic-Baltic Defence Ministers

6 November - **On Wednesday and Thursday, Minister of Defence Jaak Aaviksoo attended the annual Nordic-Baltic Defence Ministers Meeting in Helsinki, where issues related to regional security and the operation in Afghanistan were discussed.**

At the meeting, the defence ministers made a decision to tighten the co-operation between the Nordic and Baltic countries by expanding the format of Nordic defence co-operation to the Baltic states as well.

According to Minister of Defence Jaak Aaviksoo, Nordic-Baltic co-operation has been deepening year by year. "I am pleased that our work in defence co-operation is entering a new phase – a common Baltic Sea co-operation space is forming, in which the security of all members is equally ensured," the minister of defence said.

The defence ministers also discussed the current economic situation and its impact on the defence budgets. "We agreed that regardless of the current economic situation, investments into national defence should not be abandoned. Support to defence reforms in Ukraine, Georgia and West Balkans must also continue," Aaviksoo said.

At the meeting, a joint statement on Afghanistan was also adopted, in which the decision to continue with the current operation in Afghanistan was stressed. Regardless of the complex security situation, all eight Nordic and Baltic countries are participating among the 43 countries constituting the NATO-led mission.

The Nordic-Baltic Defence Ministers Meeting has been held annually since 2003. Participating in the meeting are the defence ministers of Estonia, Finland, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, as well as the Director of the Icelandic Defence for Department.

Terras and General Ham Discuss Future of Estonian-US Co-operation

5 November - **This morning Permanent Undersecretary Riho Terras met with General Carter Ham, Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe, who is visiting Estonia.**

At the meeting, opportunities for increasing the visibility and presence of U.S. armed forces in the Baltic states via common military trainings were discussed. According to Terras, the host nation support exercise Baltic Host 2009 turned out to be very successful in this field. "Such co-operation between Estonia and the United States will definitely continue and deepen in the coming years as well," Terras said.

Terras also introduced to General Ham the Defence Development Plan 2009-2018 and its main capability development priorities.

General Ham recognised Estonia for being able to maintain defence expenditures at 1.86% of gross domestic product, even under difficult economic conditions. "The national defence model selected by Estonia – joining the reserve army with the professional units participating in out-of-area missions – is also a good example of how to use limited resources efficiently," General Ham said.

Today General Ham also met with Chief of the Defence Forces Lieutenant General Ants Laaneots and Commander of the Estonian Army Colonel Indrek Sirel.

Estonian Defence Forces Send Fire Support Team to Afghanistan

6 November (BNS) - **The Estonian Defence Forces have sent to Afghanistan a five-strong fire support team which will be serving in the composition of the infantry company to be dispatched there.**

The Defence Forces headquarters said that the team arrived in Afghanistan last week; the unit will replace the British fire support team that has until now been attached to Estcoy-8, and will soon go into the composition of the Estcoy-9 infantry company to serve in Afghanistan.

The five-strong fire support team consists of two air force fire supporters, two long distance fire supporters and the commander of the team. The air force fire support element is made up of airman, while the long distance fire support team was provided by land forces.

The duty of the close-range fire support specialist must visually identify the target, call an aircraft capable of fire support in the area and direct their activity. The long-distance fire supporters guide artillery fire in the same manner.

In addition to a fire support team, Estonia is planning to dispatch to Afghanistan a team of fighting against improvised explosive devices.

At present there are two Estonian infantry companies, Estcoy-8 and Estcoy-E, the BSE-8 support element as well as staff officers and staff non-commissioned officers serving in the NATO operation in the Helmand Province in Southern Afghanistan. In all the size of the Estonian contingent is currently slightly under 300 men.

The infantry company Estcoy-E has been dispatched to Afghanistan temporarily and it will not be replaced at its return from the mission.

Estonian Cross Service Team to Return From Afghanistan

7 November (BNS) - **The Estonian cross service team (CST) will return from Afghanistan on Saturday and no new team will be dispatched instead of it.**

The Defence Forces will terminate their four-year-old mission of the cross service team on the Kabul international airfield and no new unit will be dispatched instead of CST-13, which will return to Estonia on Saturday.

Commander of the Estonian Air Force Brig. Gen. Valeri Saar told BNS that since 2005, thirteen cross service teams had supported ISAF on the Kabul international airfield, showing a high professional level and frequently deserving words of praise for

their dedication and language skills. The brigadier general underlined that the mission was repeatedly extended at the ISAF leadership's request.

"The Estonian Air Force needs the skills received in Kabul on the Ämari Airfield," the air force commander said.

Estonian soldiers served in the composition of the cross service team on the Kabul international airfield since 24 February 2005. During the four years, 24 airmen and two battle school cadets have taken part in the mission.

There were three Estonian airmen, a Frenchman and one to two soldiers from the leading country in the mission at any one time. In addition, one of the duties of the Estonian Air Force was leading the team, which means that there was an international unit under the command of a non-commissioned officer of the Estonian Air Force.

The duties of the cross services team are to ensure parking and primary services of aircraft. Besides, the team supported other Estonian units if necessary, such as logisticians and close protection teams, when they needed accommodation or transport.

Last year the cross service team together with the Foreign Ministry gave security equipment to workers of the Kabul civilian airfield and trained them to use the security equipment and instructed them about the general principles of the work.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Sustainability of Estonian Economy Among Best in EU

10 November (BNS) - **A sustainability analysis of the EU public sector shows that Estonia's risks in the sphere are small and the adjustments needed to ensure sustainability are some of the smallest in the European Union (EU).**

It appears from a recent analysis that if in the EU on average the sustainability gap, the effort to put public finance on a sustainable path, is 6.5% of GDP, then for Estonia the same figure is 1.0%.

Bulgaria must make almost as big adjustments. Hungary and Denmark may slightly slacken their finances, but all the other countries must make bigger efforts to ensure sustainability compared with Estonia.

In Latvia, for example, it is necessary to make 7.1% and in Lithuania 9.9% of financial adjustments of their GDP finances to ensure sustainability.

The necessary changes can be made both by increasing incomes as well as by contracting expenditures.

The European Commission also pointed out the low debt burden of the Estonian government sector, although the debt burden will grow this and the next year.

In 2020 there will be seven countries in the European Union with a debt burden of less than 60% of GDP. Besides Estonia such countries also include Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

Port of Tallinn's Jan-Sept Net Profit Up 15 Percent on Year

4 November - **The consolidated net profit of Estonia's state-owned port company Tallinna Sadam in the first nine months of this year was 406 million kroons (EUR 25.94 mln), an**

increase of 15% compared to the same period last year.

According to unaudited figures, consolidated revenues during the same period totalled 973 million kroons, which is 6% more than a year ago, the company reports.

The first nine months of 2009 were successful for the company, Tallinna Sadam said.

The nine-month freight flows added up to 23.3 million tons, marking growth of nearly 7%. Tallinna Sadam thereby regained third position among the largest ports in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea after Primorsk and St. Petersburg and ahead of Riga, Ventspils and Klaipeda.

Despite the complicated economic situation and contracted consumption, the number of passengers served in the first nine months of this year stayed at the record level registered in 2008, the company said.

In the January-September period a total of 5.7 million passengers passed through the ports of Tallinna Sadam. A small drop was recorded in the number of passengers on regular lines but the number of cruise passengers at the same time increased by 11% to 415 000, which is an all-time record for Tallinna Sadam.

Shipper Tallink Carries 10 Percent More Passengers in October

5 November - **The listed Estonian shipper Tallink Grupp last month carried 711 877 passengers which marks a year-on-year increase of 9.7%.**

The number of trucks and trailers decreased by 13.1% to 23 297 units, the company informed the stock exchange.

Passenger numbers on the Estonia-Finland route grew by 7.9% to 308 552.

Ships plying between Estonia and Sweden carried 57 406 passengers, up by 5.4% against October 2008.

The number of travellers between Finland and Sweden increased by 11.7% to 299 698 and the number of passengers on the Latvia-Sweden line, by 18.5% to 40 400.

The number of passenger cars showed a year-on-year increase of 15.5%.

The figures were mainly influenced by a new cruise ferry starting operations on the Estonia-Sweden route in April, replacing the smaller MS Romantika, and the Romantika in turn replacing the Regina Baltica on the Latvia-Sweden route, Tallink said.

CULTURAL NEWS

Estonian Puppet Film Studio and Cinemabus Participated in Kids Euro Festival in Washington

6 November - **This week the Estonian Cinemabus and Puppet Film Studio were at the Kids Euro Festival in Washington teaching American kids and teachers about filmmaking.** Their stay was organised by the Estonian Embassy in Washington.

Estonia was represented in the main programme (for ages 6-12 years) of the biggest kids' festival ever to be held in Washington by the Puppet Film Studio. In the workshops that took place in schools in Washington and the surrounding area, clips from

puppet films were shown and the kids were guided through the making of a puppet film. "The theme for all our workshops was the sea and the customs associated with it. We were pleasantly surprised by how interested and enthusiastic the children were," said Mait Laas, the director of Estonian Puppet Film.

The Cinemabus, which presented extremely successfully last year, also participated in the festival. This year at the festival they organised seminars for teachers to show opportunities for using film as a method of instruction. Many of the teachers that participated in the seminars felt that this type of training should be part of the official teacher training programme, because film can be used very successfully in teaching. In addition, it also develops the teacher's own creativity and provides inspiration for teaching.

A free screening also took place within the framework of the festival. Anybody who was interested could watch the children's puppet films "Miriam's Stories" and "Carrot" and take part in workshops.

The Kids Euro Festival being held from 15 October to 10 November is taking place in Washington, D.C. for the second year in a row, as last year it was more successful than anyone had anticipated. The idea for the festival came from France, which was the European Union presidency for the second half of 2008, and all 27 EU member states are participating. There are 150 free performances taking place within the event. The patron of the festival is First Lady of the USA Michelle Obama.

ETV's New TV Serial Wins Main Prize in Switzerland

7 November (BNS) - **A new serial of Eesti Televisioon (ETV), The Class: Life After, won the main prize in the television serials programme at the 15th international festival Cinema Tous Ecrans on Saturday.**

The Estonian broadcasting company, ERR, told BNS that the producer of the serial, Gerda Kordemets, would receive the Reflet d'Or for the best series and the accompanying prize money of 5 000 francs Saturday in Geneva.

Kordemets's joy about the main prize was great. "It is actually an exceptionally great achievement that a TV serial producer in Estonia was chosen as a competition entry of an international festival for the first time," she said, adding that bearing in mind the very high-level competitors, she hadn't hoped for any prize at all.

In addition to Estonia there were 15 series from England, the United States, Finland, Denmark, France, Canada and Brazil in the same category.

"I am glad that the serial is a worthy follower to the film Class," Kordemets said with a reference to Ilmar Raag's movie and expressed the hope that the prize would contribute to international distribution of the serial.

"No Estonian TV programme, because serials are specific TV programmes, have never earned such recognition before," Raag told BNS. "Above all it is a great victory for ERR and Gerda Kordemets."

Kordemets said that the two first episodes of the serial were shown at the festival, which is usual for such festivals.

The serial of seven episodes, which starts with the school shooting that Raag's movie ended with, focuses on the recovery of the people and the

society from the shock and moving on with their lives in the year after the event.

The script for the series was written by Margit Keerdo, who lives in Leeds, England, and has studied script-writing there. Besides Raag and Kordemets, other directors are Liina Paakspuu, Priit Valkna and Marek Miil.

The shooting of the last three episodes of the serial will start in March and the serial will be shown by ETV next fall.

Translation of Part I of Tammsaare's "Truth and Justice" Introduced at Vilnius Embassy

5 November - **The Lithuanian translation of Part I of A.H. Tammsaare's novel "Truth and Justice" was introduced at the Estonian Embassy in Vilnius on Wednesday, 4 November.**

Estonian Ambassador to Lithuania Tiit Naaber expressed satisfaction that the release of one of the masterpieces of Estonian classic literature brought many people to the embassy. "Translations of Estonian literature play an important role in introducing our country and culture. Translating works of literature facilitates deeper understanding and sympathy among cultures," said Ambassador Naaber.

The author of the translation, which was published by VAGA, is Danute Sirijos-Giraite. Part I of the novel has been released in Lithuanian once before, as a translation from the Russian fifty years ago. The new translation, which is being published as part of VAGA's world literature series, contains an afterword by literature and theatre critic and literature scholar Leenu Siimisker.

The works of many Estonian authors have been published in Lithuanian, most recently those of Oskar Luts, Jaan Kross, Tõnu Õnnepalu and Arvo Valton. Of children's literature, the books of Eno Raud, Aino Pervik ja Vladimir Beekman have recently been translated, and Andrus Kivirähk's children's book "Sirli, Siim and Secrets" is currently being translated.

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