

Joint Statement by the President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Riigikogu and the Prime Minister of Estonia on the conclusion of Estonia's negotiations for accession to the EU (Tallinn, 16 December 2002)

Caption: On 16 December 2002, the President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Riigikogu and the Prime Minister of Estonia make a joint statement in which they welcome the conclusion of the country's negotiations for accession to the European Union.

Source: Joint Statement by the President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Riigikogu and the Prime Minister 16 December 2002. [ON-LINE]. [Tallinn]: Office of the President of the Republic of Estonia, [09.06.2005]. Disponible sur <http://www.president.ee/en/duties/statements.php?gid=27127>.

Copyright: Office of the President of the Republic of Estonia

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/joint_statement_by_the_president_of_the_republic_the_chairman_of_the_riigikogu_and_the_prime_minister_of_estonia_on_the_conclusion_of_estonia_s_negotiations_for_accession_to_the_eu_tallinn_16_december_2002-en-5603df06-54c5-4b10-babb-067a82e2389a.html

Publication date: 04/09/2012

Joint Statement by the President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Riigikogu and the Prime Minister (16 December 2002)

Estonia has concluded its accession talks with the European Union. We are facing an opportunity to confirm that we belong to Europe. This is an event of historic importance, the beginning of which dates back to distant past, and which will influence many generations in future. This moment was prepared for with the establishment of an Estonian state in 1918 and its restoration in 1991, and it is in line with the admission of Estonia to UN in 1991 and the invitation to NATO, recently extended to us. With reference to all those events, the conviction reinforced by Estonia's Manifesto of Independence deserves reiterating: "Estonia, you are standing on the threshold of a hopeful future!"

The accession negotiations with the European Union having lasted for five years can be regarded as one of the most time-consuming and substantial undertakings of the Estonian state. In the course of those talks we proved not only to our future partners, but, in the first place, to ourselves that we are ready to meet new challenges, that, being a free nation, we are desirous and able to shape our future ourselves. The results of the enlargement process will enrich life and open up new opportunities both in Estonia and in the whole of the future European Union consisting of twenty-five countries.

All of us have had to adapt to the rules on the basis of which one of the world's most influential economic and political alliances is functioning. The deals made derived from, on the one hand, the lack of options for a country having been absent from the European development area for such a long time and, on the other hand, they serve tactical purposes, demonstrating Estonia's dialogue capabilities as a future Member State of the European Union. The Estonian negotiators have made a good work. The accession conditions achieved correspond to today's realities in the world, in the European Union and in the candidate countries.

The completion of the accession negotiations marks the end of one stage in Estonia's accession to the European Union. Before making the final decision in a referendum, all the pros and cons have to be weighed. The Estonian public is entitled to a comprehensive overview of all problems, risks and advantages concomitant with the accession.

Freedom by itself neither makes people happy nor nations successful. The deciding factor is, for what purpose and how freedom is being used. We are sure that the accession to the European Union is a reliable guarantee for the development of free society in Estonia and for Estonia itself to survive. Now, the people have their say.

Arnold Rüütel
President of the Republic

Toomas Savi
Chairman of the Riigikogu

Toomas Savi
Prime Minister

Siim Kallas
Prime Minister