



Valsts kanceleja

*State Chancellery of the Republic of Latvia*

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### **Prime Minister: Latvia and Estonia – inseparable partners also in future cooperation**

On Wednesday, April 15, Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma congratulated her colleague Taavi Rõivas, Prime Minister of Estonia, during his visit to Latvia, on the approval of the newly elected Estonian government. "We have developed a very good, active dialogue both within the framework of the European Council and the cooperation format of the Baltic States and, of course, in the framework of bilateral relations between Latvia and Estonia. I wish Estonia all the best also in future development," said L. Straujuma.

At the meeting, the parties discussed the cooperation between Latvia and Estonia in the fields of economy, energy, transport, security and defence, as well as culture. "Estonia is the fourth major trade partner of Latvia, and I encourage Estonians to continue to invest in Latvia," said the Prime Minister.

L. Straujuma expressed delight over the completion of work on the Latvian-Estonian and Estonian - Latvian academic dictionary; we can expect the first copies already in May. She also stressed that the two countries have already begun to prepare for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of independence in 2018 when Estonia will have to hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Prime Minister of Estonia highly appreciated the progress of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, noting that Estonia is already learning from the Latvian experience, "I am a big fan of your presidency; I highly appreciate Latvia's achievements during the presidency, and it will be a great pleasure to build on the experience of the best friends".

The two parties discussed the current developments and upcoming events of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. L. Straujuma informed T. Rõivas about the forthcoming Riga Summit in May, this year, in Rīga, the Digital Assembly in June, this year, etc. L. Straujuma stressed that the Eastern Partnership countries are the partners of strategic importance to the European Union, and the Riga Summit will confirm the European Union's long-term vision of the Eastern Partnership.

PHOTOS: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/valstskanceleja/sets/72157651566454318/>.

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