

Chronology 2006

JANUARY

09–10/01

Deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Bulgaria Ivailo Kalfin pays a working visit to Estonia.

17–21/01

President Arnold Rüütel pays a working visit to the United States.

18/01

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Ukraine hold political consultations in Kiev.

24/01

The foreign ministries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Germany hold political consultations in Berlin.

26–27/01

The foreign ministries of the Nordic countries, the Baltic states and the US hold political consultations in Oslo.

FEBRUARY

01/02

The foreign minister of Sweden Laila Freivalds pays a working visit to Estonia.

02/02

The foreign minister of Colombia Carolina Barco Isakson pays an official visit to Estonia.

03–05/02

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet attends the meeting of the foreign ministers of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Germany in Berlin, and the annual security policy conference in Munich.

07/02

President Arnold Rüütel attends the funeral of the former president of Germany Johannes Rau in Berlin.

07–10/02

President Arnold Rüütel pays a state visit to Croatia.

09/02

Estonian and Russian foreign ministries hold political consultations in Moscow.

17/02

The president of Finland Tarja Halonen pays a working visit to Tallinn. Meetings with the President of Estonia, participation in the opening of the Kumu Art Museum.

The Estonian and Belgian foreign ministries hold political consultations in Brussels.

22–23/02

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays an official visit to Macedonia.

23/02

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Tajikistan.

EU commissioner for employment and social affairs Vladimir Spidla visits Estonia

24–25/02

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a visit to Kosovo.

27/02

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip participates in the Baltic prime ministers' meeting in Vilnius.

MARCH

07/03

Delegation of World Food Programme headed by deputy executive director John Powell visits Estonia.

07–08/03

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Georgia hold political consultations in Tbilisi.

08–11/03

The chairman of the *Riigikogu*, Ene Ergma, pays an official visit to Poland.

10–11/03

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the EU foreign ministers' informal (Gymnich) meeting in Salzburg, Austria.

14/03

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Rwanda.

19–22/03

President Arnold Rüütel pays an official visit to Moldova.

23–24/03

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, Foreign Minister Urmas Paet and Minister of Finance Aivar Sõerd participate in the session of the European Council in Brussels.

26/03

President Lennart Meri's funeral in Tallinn.

27/03

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Norway.

27–28/03

The president of Hungary László Sólyom pays a state visit to Estonia.

27–28/03

Vice minister for foreign affairs of Thailand Virachai Virameteekul pays a working visit to Estonia.

28/03

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Burkina Faso.

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and the United Arab Emirates.

28–29/03

Foreign minister of Albania Besnik Mustafaj pays an official visit to Estonia.

29/03

The foreign ministry of Estonia decides to support the UN democracy fund and the project of Public Service Academy in organising a course on the supporting personnel

of UN evaluation and coordination team with 234,540 EEK.

29–30/03

Prime minister of Poland Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz pays an official visit to Estonia.

30–31/03

Minister for European affairs of France Catherine Colonna pays a working visit to Estonia.

APRIL

03/04

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays an official visit to Slovakia.

03–05/04

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays an official visit to Germany.

05–08/04

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays an official visit to Turkey.

07/04

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Japan hold political consultations in Tokyo.

12/04

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Luxembourg hold political consultations in Luxembourg.

12–13/04

Minister of State for Europe of the German Federal Foreign Office pays a working visit to Estonia.

20–21/04

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina hold political consultations in Sarajevo.

24–26/04

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet and Minister of Defence Jürgen Ligi participate in the meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Adriatic and the Baltic Charter on Brijun islands in Croatia.

26/04

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and the Republic of the Congo.

27–28/04

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the NATO foreign ministers' informal meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria.

27–28/04

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Moldova hold consultations concerning EU matters in Chisinau, Moldova.

MAY

01/05

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Brunei.

Finland and Iceland abolish restrictions on the free movement of labour for the citizens of the new member states of the EU, including Estonia.

03–05/05

President Arnold Rüütel pays a working visit to Lithuania. He also participates in a conference on the EU's neighbourhood policy.

04/05

The foreign minister of Spain Miguel Ángel Moratinos pays a working visit to Estonia.

05/05

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays a working visit to Denmark.

07–09/05

Georgian state minister of Euro-Atlantic integration Giorgi Baramidze pays a visit to Estonia.

09–13/05

President Arnold Rüütel pays an official visit to Georgia.

10/05

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Germany hold political consultations in Berlin.

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays a working visit to Luxembourg.

11/05

The Estonian and Russian foreign ministries hold consular consultations in Moscow.

The foreign ministries of Estonia and the Czech Republic hold political consultations in Prague.

11–12/05

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip attends the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean in Vienna.

12/05

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Grenada.

15/05

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the joint meeting between the foreign ministers of the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council in Brussels. During his stay he also meets with the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

15/05

Executive director of UNITAR (United Nation Institute for Training and Research) Marcel A. Boisard pays a working visit to Estonia.

16/05

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Germany hold consultations in Berlin concerning Eastern Europe and Central-Asia.

17/05

The foreign minister of Montenegro Miodrag Vlahović pays a working visit to Estonia.

18–19/05

The chairman of the *Riigikogu*, Toomas Varek, pays an official visit to Sweden.

23/05

The foreign minister of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn pays a working visit to Estonia.

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays a working visit to Finland.

23–24/05

The president of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus pays a state visit to Estonia.

24–25/05

The foreign minister of Serbia and Montenegro Vuk Drašković pays an official visit to Estonia.

26/05

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Azerbaijan hold political consultations.

27–28/05

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the EU foreign ministers' informal meeting in Klosterneuburg, Austria.

28–29/05

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands Frans W. Weisglas pays a visit to Estonia.

29/05

The president of the European Parliament Josep Borrell Fontell pays a visit to Estonia.

29/05

The Foreign Ministry decides to support Indonesia with humanitarian aid to recover from the results of the earthquake of 27.05 via the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with 500,000 EEK.

30/05

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays a working visit to Belgium.

30–31/05

The conference of the Speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe member states in Tallinn.

31/05–02/06

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Ukraine.

JUNE

01–04/06

President Arnold Rüütel participates in the UN Summit on HIV/AIDS in the United States.

05–06/06

Estonia and Moldova hold consultations on development cooperation in Chisinau.

06/06

The Foreign Ministries of Estonia and Israel hold political consultations in Jerusalem.

06–08/06

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip participates in the Summit of the Heads of Government of the Baltic Sea States in Reykjavik.

08/06

The Foreign Ministries of Estonia and Russia hold consultations concerning EU affairs in Tallinn.

The foreign minister of Latvia Artis Pabriks pays a working visit to Estonia.

Tiina Intelmann, the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations, is elected Chair of the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

09/06

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Finland in cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in Estonia organise in Tallinn a conference on Northern Dimension.

13/06

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Montenegro.

13/06

The foreign ministries of the Nordic countries, the Baltic states and the US hold political consultations in Washington.

15/06

The President of the French Senate Christian Poncelet pays a working visit to Estonia.

15–16/06

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participate in the European Council session in Brussels.

16/06

The Estonian Development Cooperation Roundtable, in cooperation with the foreign ministry and the Estonian European Movement, holds its second “World Day” in a park in the heart of Tallinn so as to inform the general public about the issues of developing countries and humanitarian aid.

17–19/06

The Chairman of the *Riigikogu*, Toomas Varek, participates in Kiel Days in Germany.

19–20/06

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the First Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

21/06

The foreign minister of Romania Mihai – Răzvan Ungureanu pays a working visit to Estonia.

27–28/06

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the international conference “Paris-2-Moskva-1” in the framework of the G8 Summit. Meetings with the Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov and the foreign minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mladen Ivanić.

29/06–2/07

The Chairman of the *Riigikogu*, Toomas Varek, participates in the conference of the Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in Copenhagen.

JULY

02–04/07

President Arnold Rüütel pays a working visit to Scotland.

03–05/07

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

07/07

The foreign ministry decides to support via the OSCE the socioeconomic development of South Ossetia and its neighbouring regions, to give humanitarian aid via the UNHCR to South Sudan for assisting exiles and internal refugees and also to support the two projects on the raising of public awareness of development cooperation (Estonian European Movement project “World Day” and “World Education project GLEN”) totalling 2,255,163 EEK.

10–11/07

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in an African conference on migration and development in Rabat. Urmas Paet meets also with the foreign minister of Morocco Mohamed Benaissa.

11–12/07

State Secretary for the European Union Affairs of Spain Alberto Navarro González pays a visit to Estonia.

12–14/07

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the opening of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in Turkey.

14/07

Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs of the EC Joaquin Almunia pays a visit to Estonia.

17/07

Vice president of the EC Franco Frattini pays a visit to Estonia.

26/07

In connection with the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon the foreign ministry decides to allocate 500,000 EEK to the UNHCR for assisting exiles and internal refugees.

27/07

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Cameroon.

AUGUST

10–13/08

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Sweden.

20–21/08

The Chairman of the *Riigikogu* Toomas Varek and vice chairman Ene Ergma participate in Riga in the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Latvia.

21–23/08

Prime Minister of Iceland Geir H. Haarde pays an official visit to Estonia. Within the framework of the visit a memorial plaque is unveiled on the façade of the ministry of foreign affairs to commemorate the fact that Iceland was the first country to recognize the restored independence of Estonia and other Baltic states.

24–25/08

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the meeting of the Baltic and Nordic foreign ministers in Oslo.

28/08

The prime minister of Finland Matti Vanhanen pays a working visit to Estonia.

SEPTEMBER

01–02/09

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the EU foreign ministers' informal meeting in Lappeenranta, Finland.

10–11/09

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip attends the Summit of ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) in Helsinki. A bilateral meeting is held with the prime minister of Thailand, Thaksin Shinawatra.

12/09

The deputy foreign minister and Portugal's State Secretary for the European Union Affairs Manuel Lobo Antunes pays an official visit to Estonia.

12/09

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Denmark hold political consultations in Tallinn.

19–23/09

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet attends the opening of the general debate of the 61st General Assembly of the UN and participates in the EU ministerial week in New York. He also meets with the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the Czech foreign minister Alexandr Vondra, Kazakhstan's foreign minister Kasymzhomart Tokajev, the Macedonian foreign minister Antonio Milošoski, the Ugandan foreign minister Sam Kutesa, the Singaporean foreign minister George Yong-Boon Yeo, the Guatemalan foreign minister Gerth Rosenthal, the Lebanese foreign minister Fawzi Salloukh, the Jordanian foreign minister Abdelelah Al-Khatib and the Swiss foreign minister Micheline Calmy-Rey.

19/09

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Uganda.

22/09

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and the Federated States of Micronesia.

26/09

Foreign Minister Petras Vaitiekūnas of Lithuania pays a working visit to Estonia.

27/09

In connection with the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon the foreign ministry decides to allocate to UNMAS 313,000 EEK to improve the safety of the people of Lebanon.

The decision of the government of Canada to establish a visa free regime for the citizens of Estonia takes effect.

28/09

The foreign minister of New Zealand, Winston Peters pays a working visit to Estonia.

29/09

The ministry of foreign affairs decides to support a development cooperation project for Georgia (The reform of the prison system in Georgia) and the activities of the UN funds supporting the Indigenous People (United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples, Trust Fund for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People) totaling 616,692 EEK.

OCTOBER

01/10

US Senators Bill Frist and Mel Martinez pay a visit to Tallinn.

04–05/10

The foreign minister of Cyprus Georgios Lillikas pays a working visit to Estonia.

05/10

The foreign ministries of the Nordic countries, the Baltic States and the US hold political consultations in Kiev.

The Government establishes a special mission in Afghanistan, counsellor Toomas Kahur is appointed head of the mission. As of 18 October 2006 Mr. Kahur is also accredited as the Estonian chargé d'affaires a. i. to the Government of Afghanistan in Kabul.

09/10

The newly elected President of the Republic of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves is inaugurated and assumes the duties of head of state.

13/10

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Saint Vincent and Grenadines.

16/10

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves pays working visits to Latvia and Finland.

17/10

Foreign ministries of Estonia and Belarus hold political consultations in Minsk.

18/10

Foreign ministries of Estonia and Slovakia hold political consultations in Bratislava.

19–20/10

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh pay a state visit to Estonia.

20/10

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip attends the unofficial European Council in Lahti, Finland.

22–23/10

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves attends the commemoration ceremonies of the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian revolution of 1956.

23–25/10

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays an official visit to Cyprus.

25–28/10

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Moldova. Within the framework of the visit the foreign minister gives at the Moldovan State University a speech on European integration.

27/10

The foreign ministries of Estonia and the Netherlands hold political consultations in Tallinn.

28–30/10

A high-level delegation from the People's Republic of China pays a visit to Estonia,

leader of the delegation being Qinglin Jia, the chairman of the National Consultative Conference.

30–31/10

The Ukrainian foreign minister Boris Tarasyuk pays an official visit to Estonia.

30/10

Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY Carla Del Ponte visits Estonia.

Vice speaker of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) Majalli Whbee visits Estonia.

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip attends the Baltic Development Forum in Helsinki.

30–31/10

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip participates in the Baltic and Nordic prime ministers' meeting in Copenhagen.

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Ireland.

NOVEMBER

05–07/11

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Iraq.

06/11

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves attends the meeting of the presidents of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in Vilnius.

07–08/11

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to Kuwait.

07–08/11

The foreign ministries of Estonia and Italy hold consultations concerning EU Affairs in Rome.

09/11

The foreign minister of Latvia Artis Pabriks pays a working visit to Estonia.

10/11

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer pays an official visit to Estonia.

13–15/11

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays an official visit to Bulgaria.

15/11

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays a working visit to the Netherlands and attends the opening of the new Estonian embassy in the Hague.

Diplomatic relations are established between Estonia and Seychelles.

21–22/11

Foreign Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt pays an official visit to Estonia.

22–24/11

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves pays a working visit to Georgia.

23–24/11

The foreign ministries of Estonia and India hold consultations in New Delhi.

27–28/11

The President of the United States George W. Bush pays an official visit to Estonia.

An Estonian delegation headed by the the Undersecretary for European Affairs of the foreign ministry Mart Laanemäe participates in the meeting of foreign ministers of the EUROMED – Euro-Mediterranean countries in Tampere.

28–29/11

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, Foreign Minister Urmas Paet and Minister of Defence Jürgen Ligi attend NATO Summit in Riga.

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves gives a speech at an international conference in Riga entitled “A Transforming NATO in a New Global Era”.

29–30/11

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves pays a working visit to Sweden.

DECEMBER

04/12

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves opens officially the underwater power cable Estlink between Estonia and Finland.

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participates in the 14th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Brussels. Urmas Paet also meets with the foreign minister of Kyrgyzstan Alikbek Dzhekshenkulov, the foreign minister of Armenia Vartan Oskanian and the foreign minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Maharram oglu Mammadyarov.

04–05/12

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays a working visit to Portugal.

05–06/12

The Turkish minister of state and chief negotiator Ali Babacan pays an official visit to Estonia.

06–08/12

The foreign minister of Macedonia Antonio Milošoski pays an official visit to Estonia.

05/12

The foreign ministries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Germany hold political consultations in Berlin.

07–08/12

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip attends the session of the Baltic Council of Ministers and the meetings of prime ministers of the Baltic States and Poland in Vilnius.

08/12

The foreign minister of Poland Anna Fotyga pays an official visit to Estonia.

10–13/12

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip pays a working visit to Afghanistan.

12–13/12

The President of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko pays an official visit to Estonia.

13/12

The ministry of foreign affairs decides to approve the appropriation of 1.5 million EEK to the team of the EU special representative in South Caucasus, which advises the government of Georgia on a Border Guard reform.

14–15/12

Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and Foreign Minister Urmas Paet participate in the European Council session in Brussels.

15/12

The ministry of foreign affairs decides to support the launching of three projects for Ukraine, one for Moldova, one for Georgia, one for Afghanistan (the Estonian Red Cross project for furnishing the central children hospital in the Province of Helmand) and one for Armenia, totaling 6,272,079 EEK.

The ministry of foreign affairs decides to allocate aid via UNICEF to support education in the Republic of Congo and to the World Bank for combating Bird Flu, totaling 918,956 EEK.

18–19/12

Foreign Minister Urmas Paet pays an official visit to Georgia. The Estonian Embassy is inaugurated in Tbilisi.

20/12

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves pays a working visit to Belgium.