

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT



### MEETING THE PRESIDENT OF THE ESTONIAN PARLIAMENT

Thomas Schirmacher visited the President of the Estonian Parliament (former PM [Jüri Ratas](#)) to inform himself about the effect, the war against the Ukraine has on Estonia in general and because of the refugees from Ukraine and Russia, adding to those from Belarus.

Jüri Ratas (born 1978) was the 18th prime minister of Estonia from 2016 to 2021. He has been Leader of the Centre Party since 2016, and was the mayor of Tallinn from 2005 to 2007. Since 2021 he is the President (Speaker) of the [Riigikogu](#), the Estonian one-chamber Parliament founded 1919. Ratas was a close ally of German longtime Chancellor Angela Merkel, with whom he keeps close contacts. Ratas informed Schirmacher about the help Estonia is offering to refugees from Ukraine and a growing number of refugees from Russia.