

# Estonian Review

E E S T I R I N G V A A D E

VOLUME 17 NO 19-20 MAY 10- 22, 2007

## TOP STORIES

### New Synagogue Opened in Tallinn

May 16 – **The Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres was pleased with the new Jewish synagogue in Tallinn and emphasized that this was extremely important for Estonian Jews.**

Besides Israeli Deputy Premier, the opening ceremony of the new synagogue was attended by President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, Israel's chief rabbi Yona Metzger and his Russian counterpart Berl Lazar.

"Estonia's Jewish community, has a significant place in our economy and science and on the cultural scene," President Ilves said. "Estonia as a country has been a good and safe home for Jews and the Estonian Jewish community has always been a good and sympathizing partner for the Estonian state."

The head of the board of the Jewish Religious Community, Boris Oks said that opening the synagogue This was a significant event for the Estonian and also the world Jewish community.

The Jewish population of Estonia is now about 3,000, most of them live in Tallinn. They are united by two organizations: the Estonian Jewish Religious Community and the secular Jewish Community of Estonia. The previous synagogue, built to a design by Nikolai Thamm Sen. and consecrated in 1885, was destroyed during the Soviet bombing of Tallinn in March 1944. The synagogue in Estonia's second-largest city of Tartu did not survive World War II either.

The construction of the synagogue in Tallinn started in August 2005. The building with an overall area of 975 square meters and a main worship area of 106 square meters cost more than 22 million kroons (EUR 1.4 mln). It was designed by architects Tõnis Kimmel and Kaur Stoor.



**Israel's Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Estonian President Toomas-Hendrik Ilves and the principal supporter of the construction Aleksander Bronstein at the opening ceremony of the synagogue in Tallinn, 16 May.**

## TOP STORIES

### OECD to Begin Accession Negotiations with Estonia

May 16 – **OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Ministerial Council decided to start accession negotiations with Estonia.**

The aim of OECD is to coordinate economic policies and to support non-inflationary and sustainable economic growth in its member states.

"We are glad that Estonia is invited to join an organisation that has successfully served the interests of its member states and their citizens, increased wealth and welfare and offered solutions to problems that its members' economies are facing with," Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet said. "Besides, joining OECD increases Estonia's attractiveness for foreign investors," Paet added.

The Foreign Minister pointed out that Estonia's membership in this reputable organisation improves significantly the economic policy dialogue in Estonia and strengthens the state's economy.

### EU Voices Solidarity with Poland, Estonia, Lithuania

May 18 - **Difficulties for Poland, Estonia and Lithuania in their relations with Russia are shared problems for the whole European Union, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said.**

"We had occasion to say to our Russian partners that a difficulty for a member state is a difficulty for the whole European community," Barroso told a news conference after an EU-Russia summit in Samara.

"The Polish problem is a European problem. The Lithuanian and Estonia problems are also EU problems. It is very important if you want to have close cooperation to understand that the EU is based on principles of solidarity," the president of the Commission said.

## FOREIGN NEWS

### Foreign Minister Paet Hoped Estonia and Israel Would Tighten Economic Ties

May 16 - **Foreign Minister Urmass Paet met with Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the delegation of the Knesset.**

Bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle-East were discussed during the meeting.

Peres and Paet were satisfied with Israeli-Estonian relations and found that economic ties between the two countries could be even closer. The Israeli Deputy Premier recognized Estonia's fast economic development and said that both countries would benefit from promoting economic ties. Estonian Foreign Minister said that this year Estonia would appoint a diplomat to Tel-Aviv. "The diplomat will prepare for opening the Estonian embassy in Israel," Paet said.

Mr. Peres gave an overview of the situation in the Middle-East. Developments in Iraq and Iran were also discussed. Both sides agreed that EU and NATO participation in solving the Middle-East conflict was important. The Israeli Deputy Prime Minister considered it crucial to move on with the Middle-East peace process.

Paet and Peres were pleased that Estonia and Israel were invited to OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) accession negotiations.

The Israeli Deputy Premier was also pleased with the new Jewish synagogue in Tallinn and emphasized that this was extremely important for Estonian Jews.

Foreign Minister Paet and Estonian ambassador to Israel, Mrs Aino Lepik von Wiren attended a commemoration ceremony and placed a wreath at the Holocaust memorial in Klooga. Foreign Minister and the ambassador also attended the opening ceremony of the new synagogue.

### Foreign Minister Hails Ratification by Latvian Parliament of Border Treaty with Russia

May 17 - **Estonian Foreign Minister Urmass Paet welcomed the Latvian Parliament's decision to ratify a border treaty with Russia.**

"We are pleased that Latvia has concluded and now also ratified the border treaty with Russia," the minister said.

Paet voiced the hope that the Russian side too will endorse the treaty as soon as possible and it can take effect. "Latvia's success is our success, too," he added.

The border treaty was ratified with votes 70-25. The pact that was signed in Moscow on March 27 will step into force after its ratification in both the Latvian and the Russian parliament and exchange of ratification documents.

### Estonia Is for Closer EU-NATO Cooperation on Missions

May 14 - **Estonia is for increasing the European Union's role in both Kosovo and Afghanistan and strengthening the bloc's cooperation with NATO in those countries.**

A joint meeting of EU foreign and defence ministers in the framework of the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels discussed the EU's rule of law mission in Kosovo and the police mission in Afghanistan that are to start soon.

Foreign Minister Urmass Paet who attended the meeting said that in Estonia's view it is important for the EU to play a bigger role in both Kosovo and Afghanistan. Estonia also supports strengthening of EU-NATO cooperation which means both coordinated action in Kosovo and Afghanistan and deepening of political dialogue between the two organizations.

As NATO plays the leading part as guarantor of security in both Kosovo and Afghanistan, the success of the future missions and safety of their participants depend on the effectiveness of the EU-NATO cooperation, the minister observed.

"NATO and the European Union should not confine themselves to cooperation in crises but must develop a permanent coordination and dialogue mechanism," he said, adding that the problems obstructing bilateral collaboration should not be overlooked in the process.

Discussing latest developments in Iraq, foreign ministers hailed the launch of the stabilization plan. In Paet's words, what is most significant is that the initiative came from the Iraqi government and that the United Nations and other international organizations are ready to contribute vigorously to its implementation.

### Governor of St Petersburg Stresses Importance of Continued Transport Link With Estonia

May 15 - **The governor of Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg told the Estonian Foreign Minister in a phone conversation that she attached very great importance to maintaining transport links between the two countries.**

Valentina Matviyenko emphasized that she considered continued contacts between Tallinn and St. Petersburg as well as between all Estonian and Russian people to be essential.

The governor said it was also important to keep the usual transport links, both by road and by rail, between Estonia and Russia open.

Foreign Minister Urmass Paet underscored the importance of contacts between people.

"I view the established cooperation ties of Estonia and St. Petersburg as very important," the minister stressed, and thanked Matviyenko for her efforts to preserve those ties.

### Estonia Open to Dialogue with Russia

May 11 - **Estonian Foreign Minister Urmass Paet reiterated that Estonia has been open for dialogue with Russia and has made efforts to have normal relations with the country.**

"Pragmatic and good-neighborly relations will continue to be our aim also in the future," Paet said at a meeting of the Council of Europe ministerial-level meeting in Strasbourg. "But it can naturally take place only if the political will and respect are mutual."

The Estonian foreign minister also recommended to all Council of Europe member countries to accede to the cyber crime convention.

"Estonia is one of the initiators of the Council of Europe convention on cyber crime," Paet said, "Today's developments confirm that we must fight cyber crime together," he added.

"At the same time, we are appealing to Russia to take measures against cyber criminals operating in Russia, as they have been posing a threat not to just one neighboring country but also in wider terms," Paet said, "They constitute a threat also to Russia's international reputation."

Speaking about a reform of the European Court of Human Rights, Paet underlined that increasing efficiency of the court was one of the major duties the Council of Europe was confronted with.

"But it is impossible to move on with the court reform until the 14th additional protocol of the Human Rights Convention has taken effect," Paet said, "It has not entered into force until all member countries have ratified it."

He appealed to Russia to display political will and ratify the additional protocol intended to raise the efficiency of the Court of Human Rights.

### Foreign Minister Thanked European Colleagues for Support

May 14 - **Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, attending a meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union, thanked his colleagues for support.**

Preparations for the EU-Russia summit later this week were at the top of the agenda of the meeting. The ministers also discussed the situation in Sudan, Somalia and Iraq. Under general affairs, the agenda for the European Council in June was under consideration.

The German presidency gave in the meeting an overview of the current state of preparations for the EU-Russia summit in Samara, central Russia on May 18.

Paet thanked his colleagues for supporting Estonia. In his words, it is important for the EU to raise at the summit the question of cyber attacks originating in Russia and aimed at a member state of the bloc, as well as the issues of ensuring the security of foreign diplomatic missions and observance of the Vienna Convention.

Concentrated cyber attacks pose a common threat to all countries in the 21st century, the minister observed. "It is pertinent to urge Russia as well to join the Council of Europe convention on cyber crime and cooperate with other countries to fight crime in the cyberspace," he said.

Paet further suggested the EU pay more attention to the freedom of the press in Russia and draw Moscow's attention to the free market situation and economic relations with other countries arising from it.

### Finnish Students Expressed Support for Estonia

May 15 - **Five student organizations of the University of Helsinki have made a statement in support of Estonia.**

"We, the undersigned Student Nations of the University of Helsinki, are concerned about the recent developments in our neighbouring country Estonia and wish to express heartfelt support for

Estonia and all inhabitants of Estonia," says the statement signed by leaders of the five organizations.

They also voice support for Estonian students' endeavours to strengthen the country's residents' belief in democratic principles.

"We believe that a small country guided by the fundamental law, democratic values and principles of the rule of law is able to overcome even bigger difficulties in its society through open dialogue and citizen action," the statement says.

The document is signed by curators of the university's Nylands Nation, Hamalais-osakunta, Eteläsuomalainen osakunta, Savolainen osakunta and Varsinaissuomalainen osakunta (VSO) societies.

VSO curator Timo Korhonen said it's not usual for Student Nations to make political statements.

Student Nations are societies formed of students hailing from one and the same province. The University of Helsinki has 15 nations of which 11 are Finnish-speaking and four, Swedish-speaking.

### Estonian Defence Minister Raised Cyber Attack Issue at Meeting with EU Colleagues

May 14 - **The Estonian Defence Minister brought up the issue of cyber attacks against Estonia at a meeting of European Union defence ministers.**

The meeting in Brussels focused on the EU's military cooperation with the United Nations, lessons of the bloc's military mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo last year, and the development of military capabilities in the longer term.

The Estonian Defence Minister, Jaak Aaviksoo, said in a panel discussion about the development of rapid reaction capability that Europe has to take new threats into consideration. "The massive cyber attacks against Estonia show clearly that this problem needs to be taken very seriously and calls for mutual cooperation," said the minister, stressing that cyber attacks have to be countered within minutes and seconds.

A meeting of the steering committee of the European defence agency at which the future of the European defence industry was in focus took place in the framework of the ministerial meeting.

The ministers signed an agreement on the launch of a common troop protection program.

Aaviksoo also met with the secretary-general of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, who underlined the importance of cyberspace security for the whole alliance. The NATO chief noted that none of the member states is safe from cyber attacks similar to those that targeted Estonia.

Cyberspace security will be one of the topics defence ministers of the alliance are going to address at a meeting in Brussels next month.

Aaviksoo thanked the secretary-general for firm support for Estonia in the monument row with Russia and drew attention to the necessity of devising a clear cyber defence policy.

The two also talked about ongoing NATO operations in Afghanistan and Kosovo, the alliance's Baltic airspace policing mission, and matters concerning NATO rapid reaction forces.

## **It Does Not Make Sense to Be Part of Russian Energy System - Estonian President**

May 14 - **In his opening remarks at a forum on energy hosted by Eesti Energia, Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves said that after the recent cyber attacks from Russia it was no longer reasonable to be part of the energy system of Russia.**

Dependency on Russian natural gas is very dangerous and it definitely must not be increased, the President said.

"One cable between Estonia and Finland is a small step to create independence in terms of energy supply, but it is nevertheless important," Ilves said.

While admitting that his words might be unpleasant to hear for some people, Ilves said it was very important to pay attention to the European Union's irresponsible policies with regard to energy supplies from Russia.

"At the same time when the European Union is in a litigation with Microsoft, which is selling its products two-in-one, the EU has not subjected the agreements of Gazprom to a scrutiny," Ilves said. "Contrary to EU laws, these agreements are secret," he said.

The President also said in his opening remarks that the prices for natural gas applied by Russia contradicted the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as a higher price was being charged for exports.

In the discussion part of the forum, Minister of Economy and Communications Juhan Parts also spoke about energy security. Parts described the plan to have the Russia-Germany undersea gas pipeline run through Estonia's economic zone as alarming.

"Here security has to be put in the first place. Instead of going after a sweet mouthful one must maintain independence; that will be advantageous in the long run," he said.

"In the course of the gas pipeline's PR show its leading figures have been unable to answer very important questions," the minister added.

## **Georgian President Wants Estonia's Laar to Continue as Adviser**

May 10 - **Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili has made a proposal to former Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar to continue working as his adviser on reforms.**

Laar, who visited Georgia together with President Toomas Hendrik Ilves earlier this week, said that his one-year agreement to work as adviser to the Georgian President expired in May. At their meeting, the Georgian President made him a proposal to extend the agreement. Laar was unable to say exactly under what terms the work will go on.

Laar said he wishes to continue working closely with Georgia, even though his work in the parliament doesn't permit him to stay in that country.

Laar is chairman of the Pro Patria and Res Publica Union group in the Estonian parliament and sole candidate for chairman of the merged party. A congress of the party is scheduled to elect the chairman on May 26.

Laar said that he will probably go on with the previous arrangement, visiting Georgia several times a year.

The twice former prime minister of Estonia started work as adviser to the Georgian president in May 2006. His task is to help coordinate reforms in that country.

## **Tartu, Uppsala to Sign New Cooperation Agreement**

May 21 - **The Estonian city of Tartu and Sweden's Uppsala will this week renew their cooperation and the Tartu medal will be handed over to the long-standing head of the Uppsala municipal council.**

To renew the agreement and hand over the medal the Reformist Mayor of Tartu Urmas Kruuse and the Centrist chairman of the city council Olev Raju will go to Uppsala, the city government said.

Tartu and Uppsala signed a twinned towns agreement in 1988, and it is updated every other year with new cooperation protocols.

During this visit the cooperation protocol for 2007-08 will be signed. e-governance and e-document handling are mentioned as the priorities in it.

During the visit Kruuse and Raju will hand over the Tartu medal to John-Erik Thun, a former chairman of the Uppsala communal council and Tartu's long-standing cooperation partner.

The Tartu city government decided awarding the Tartu medal to Thun at the beginning of May.

Since 1998 until his retirement last fall Thun was chairman of the Uppsala communal council. During that time he actively supported development of relations and cooperation between Tartu and Uppsala.

## **DEFENCE NEWS**

### **NATO Experts Investigate Cyber Attacks on Estonia**

May 18 - **NATO has investigated cyber attacks on official Estonian websites, blamed by Tallinn on Moscow, and found them to be serious, well-organized and concerted.**

Estonian institutional websites have been under regular cyber attack since the end of last month. Officials in Estonia maintain that some of the cyber attacks came from Russian government computers, including in the office of President Vladimir Putin.

Estonia has urged its allies in the European Union and NATO to take firm action against the attacks on the Baltic state.

Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves contacted NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and asked for aid in dealing with the problems, the official said.

Since then NATO experts have been in daily touch with their Estonian counterparts and an expert from the NATO computer incident response centre was sent to Estonia to see the situation first hand.

### **President Ilves Visited the Defence Forces Exercise Spring Storm**

May 21 - **President Toomas Hendrik Ilves visited Spring Storm, the largest military exercise of the Estonian Defence Forces, in which almost 2,500 members of the Defence Forces participate.**

The Head of State, Defence Minister Jaak Aaviksoo, and Commander of the Defence Forces Major General Ants Laaneots who accompanied him, were introduced to the exercise headquarters, communications centre, artillery group, battle positions, and field hospital.

"I am very happy to see so many clear-eyed and very professional conscripts and young officers," said President Ilves. "This should increase the confidence of every Estonian."

## DOMESTIC NEWS

### Senior Swedish Officials Study Estonian e-Governance

May 15 - **A 27-member delegation of state secretaries from Sweden examined the development of the information society and public e-services in Estonia in the framework of a development program.**

The Swedish visitors were given an overview of the application of the ID card, e-tax board, e-school, e-police, X-tee program for the modernization of the country's databases, and e-government.

The Swedish delegation also met with Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and secretaries-general of ministries and their deputies.

At Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's wish, Estonia was chosen as the destination of top officials' management skills development program. The aim of the visit was to prepare for the Swedish presidency of the European Union in 2009 and study Estonian IT solutions.

In Sweden state secretaries are political top officials of each ministry. Almost all of them visited Estonia in the framework of the program.

### Estonian President Initiates Constitutional Amendments

May 15 - **President Toomas Hendrik Ilves handed to parliament a constitutional amendment bill to regulate the command of national defence and reinforce civilian control of the military.**

Ilves proposes to change provisions of the fundamental law which mention the commander and supreme commander of the defence forces and lay down the procedure of their appointment. Currently the commander of the defence forces is appointed into office by parliament at the president's proposal.

Ilves argues that in a parliamentary country the defence forces can be subordinated only to the government. "This is the only way they will be subject to democratic control, including parliamentary control," he said.

In the president's view, some constitutional provisions concerning national defence have hampered the development of national defence and caused disagreements. "I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that all previous defence ministers have had conflicts with army chiefs," Ilves said, adding that consequently the problem is not rooted in personalities and concrete individuals' getting along but in contradictions written into the Constitution.

The president recalled that the 1992 Constitution of Estonia is the fundamental law of a parliamentary republic but its national defence chapter has been drawn up on the basis of the 1937 Constitution or the fundamental law of a presidential state.

In his words, the result is a hybrid that allows involved parties to entertain different and contradictory ideas of their role and position in national defence. This leads in Ilves' judgment to deficient civilian management and deficient civilian control.

The president voiced the hope that since the changes suggested by him are rather urgent the parliament will pass them by an expedited procedure. However, this requires a most extensive agreement on the part of parliamentary parties.

Ilves said the Defence Ministry will also submit to parliament drafts of the required legal amendments which must show how the appointment and dismissal of the commander of the defence forces will take place after the amendment of the Constitution. "So as to avoid politicization of the position, the law must also set down exact and strict criteria the commander of the defence forces must meet," he said.

In order to achieve the necessary unanimity for amending the Constitution, Ilves previously discussed the proposal to change the fundamental law with representatives of all parliamentary groups and the standing National Defence and Constitutional committees, and heard the supporting opinion of the National Defence Council.

Speaking before the parliament, the President voiced the hope the legislature will take a serious and statesmanlike approach to the amendments initiated by him.

## ECONOMIC NEWS

### Currency rates in kroons (Bank of Estonia)

### Casino Operator Olympic Predicts EUR 170.6 Million Revenue for 2007

May 21 - **Estonian casino operator Olympic Entertainment Group forecasts consolidated revenue of 2.67 billion kroons (EUR 170.6 mln) and operating profit of 595 million kroons for the current year.**

If the targets are met, the group's revenue would soar 60 percent and operating profit increase 34 percent year-on-year.

The group expects to earn 638 million kroons of revenue in the second quarter and end the period with an operating profit of 123 million kroons.

The revenue is expected to reach 1.1 billion kroons and operating profit, 211 million kroons by the end of the first half of 2007.

### Tallink Passenger Number up by 87 Percent on Year

May 15 - **The Estonian Tallink shipping group carried 550,317 passengers this April, 88.6 percent more than last April.**

The number of passenger cars Tallink carried went up by 73.5 percent to 40,302 year on year in April, while the number of trucks carried was 29,965, 95 percent more than in the same period last year.

On the Estonia-Finland route Tallink carried 200,306 passengers this April, 6.4 percent fewer than in the same month last year.

The number of passengers declined also on the Finland-Germany route, where Tallink carried 7,994 passengers this April against 8,647 in April 2006.

Passenger numbers grew by more than 50 percent on the Latvia-Sweden route, where Tallink carried 22,842 passengers this April against 15,083 in April 2006.

Between Estonia and Sweden Tallink carried 56,118 passengers, 3.7 percent more than in the same period last year. On the Finland-Sweden route the number of passengers was 262,115 in April.

The statistics for this April reflect also the activity Tallink acquired by the purchase of Silja Line last summer.

### Guest Nights up by 7,000 in March

May 15 - **A total of 147,000 tourists stayed at Estonian accommodation establishments this March, 7,000 more than a year ago, the Statistical Office said.**

Residents of Estonia were more eager than the year before to use services of the country's accommodation establishments. Compared with March 2006, 5,900 more domestic visitors stayed at the accommodation establishments.

In March 78,000 foreign visitors and 69,000 residents of Estonia used the services of the country's accommodation establishments.

The falling trend in the number of visitors from Finland, Estonia's biggest foreign tourism partner, is slowing down. In March only on percent fewer Finnish tourists stayed at Estonian accommodation establishments than in March 2006.

Meanwhile, the number of Norwegian, Russian, Latvian and Lithuanian tourists was considerably higher in March compared with the same month the year before.

There were 657 accommodation establishments with 15,000 bedrooms and 32,000 beds at the disposal of the visitors. The occupancy rate was higher than the average in northern and western Estonia.

Foreign tourists preferred large, more expensive accommodation establishments providing additional services -- in March 80 percent of the foreign tourists stayed in large hotels of more than 100 bedrooms.

### Tallinna Kaubamaja Posts 48 Percent Increase in Q1 Sales

May 14 - **Sales of the Tallinna Kaubamaja group in the first quarter of this year totalled nearly 1.29 billion kroons (EUR 82.4 mln), an increase of 48 percent over the same period a year ago, the retail group announced.**

Net profit grew by more than 150 percent during the same period to reach 76 million kroons.

First-quarter sales by the Kaubamaja department stores segment came to 327.4 million kroons, an annual increase by 30.5 percent or 76.5 million kroons. Sales by the supermarket segment grew 35 percent to 822.2 million kroons.

The real estate segment posted sales of 24.3 million kroons including inter-segmental sales, a drop by 3.2 million kroons from the respective period in 2006.

The car sales segment finished the first quarter with sales of 130.1 million kroons.

Total assets of the Tallinna Kaubamaja group as of March 31 stood at 2.76 billion kroons, which is

one billion kroons more than at the same time a year ago.

### Trigon Agri Planning to List Its Shares

May 14 - **Trigon Agri, an agricultural company belonging to the investment banker Joakim Helenius, is planning to emerge as the largest company of its kind in Europe and have its shares listed on some European stock exchange.**

"By the end of the year we'll have nearly 120,000 hectares of farmland, our aim is to be the biggest in Europe," Helenius told the newspaper.

In a few weeks' time the company is about to make an announcement about the listing of its shares on one of Europe's stock exchanges.

"I'm not going to say which stock exchange now, but it's not the Tallinn stock exchange," he said.

Trigon Agri currently has 25,000 hectares of land at its disposal in Estonia, Ukraine and Russia. The farm enterprise will in the future concentrate its production activity in the black soil area of Ukraine and southern Russia in the Kharkiv and Kuban regions. Smaller areas of land will be situated in Estonia and the Pskov region of Russia.

The enterprise is set to produce three commodities in roughly equal shares: wheat, corn and sunflowers.

The goal is that the enterprise would be cultivating at least 150,000 hectares of land by 2009. In Estonia, such an area equals a quarter of the entire farmland.

A road show of Trigon Agri in European and American financial centres ended lately. As of now Trigon Agri has more than a billion kroons (EUR 64 mln) in free assets for investment, and another billion is about to be raised in loans.

### Estonian Fashion Firm Baltika Enters Czech Market

May 10 - **The Estonian fashion group Baltika registered a subsidiary in the Czech Republic and signed a contract for opening a Monton store in the centre of the Czech capital, Prague, in the second half of the year, the company informed the stock exchange.**

Baltika Group at present operates the Monton, Mosaic, Baltman and Ivo Nikkolo retail chains in six countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. As of the end of April, the group had a total of 122 shops.

#### ESTONIAN REVIEW (ISSN 1023-1951)

Is issued by the  
Press and Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
ISLANDI VÄLJAK 1, TALLINN, ESTONIA 15049

TEL +372 637 7600

FAX +372 637 7617

**Estonian Review** is also available over the

Internet at <http://www.vm.ee>

To subscribe, please contact: [vm@vm.ee](mailto:vm@vm.ee)