

**ESTONIAN REFORM PARTY,  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
and  
PRO PATRIA AND RES PUBLICA UNION**

**Agreement**

**on the Formation of a Government and on the General Principles of the Action Programme of  
the Government Coalition**

*8.04.2015*

The objective of the Estonian Reform Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Pro Patria and Res Publica Union is a more firmly protected Estonia — protected by the will of the people of Estonia as well as by strong relationships with allies. The common goal of the Government Coalition is to safeguard the independence of Estonia and to preserve the Estonian language and culture.

The Government Coalition wishes to develop Estonia into a country that is increasingly confident in European values, is economically successful, ensures equal opportunities to all, highly values families, and is well maintained and protected. Every resident of Estonia must be ensured dignified subsistence, achieved by everyone's opportunity to use their creativity and industriousness for improving their personal welfare as well as the welfare of their families and the entire nation.

The economic growth, the advantageous business environment and investing in the people of Estonia will ensure the well-being and the increase of incomes. The objective of the Government Coalition is the formation of a considerably sized wealthy middle class and a society where each individual is valued. We consider it important to provide people with high quality education that corresponds to the abilities of each individual, as well as with better work-related self-realisation possibilities. The Government Coalition considers the openness of the economy important, which includes the free movement of workers, goods, services and capital. We find fair free competition equally important both nationally and internationally. We value a tax policy that favours economic growth and a balanced and, considering the future generations, a responsible budget on the level of the state and local governments.

In valuing human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Government Coalition considers it important that the interests of each individual would be taken into consideration in Estonia, and that each individual could contribute to the Estonia's development according to their capabilities. The Government Coalition will pay special attention to children, to the elderly and to people with special needs.

**The Estonian Reform Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Pro Patria and Res Publica  
Union**

**have, for the purpose of**

**improving the coping of the families with children, developing further an environment that supports the birth of children, strengthening the security of Estonia, increasing the coping of the low-paid individuals, promoting the economic growth and reducing the labour-related**

**taxes, reforming the state and local government administration, mitigating the situation in the peripheral regions,**

**decided**

**to form a Government Coalition for the years 2015-2019, and agreed to implement the following action plan.**

## **1. IMPROVEMENT OF COPING OF THE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

### *General principles of family benefits*

- 1.1 We will not reduce any current benefit meant for the families with children. We will not increase the economic burden of parents in connection with the upbringing of children.
- 1.2 We will consider linking the disbursement of family benefits with periodical visits to see the family physician, thus ensuring timely aid to all children.
- 1.3 We will analyse the option to replace child benefit disbursements in cash with services and goods for children, in justified cases.

### *Greater support to the birth and upbringing of children*

- 1.4 We will increase the allowance for the first and the second child up to 60 euros.
- 1.5 We will guarantee the possibility for each young person to be engaged in sports or recreational activities, for the purpose of which we will establish an integral state relief system for recreation.
- 1.6 We will further develop the demographically efficient family policy by paying each family raising three or more children an allowance for a family with many children, amounting to 200 euros (in addition to the 100-euro allowance for the third and subsequent child).
- 1.7 We will promote the establishing of childcare facilities. We will financially support local governments with investments for creating nursery school places for all applicants; we will also legally enforce the reimbursement obligation, should a local government fail to provide a nursery school place.
- 1.8 We will increase the financing of the home support programme for families with many children, and will grant families with three children and in need of assistance the possibility to receive home support for families with many children upon purchasing a home.
- 1.9 We will continue to support infertility treatment.

### *Harmonising the work and family life*

- 1.10 We will analyse the possibilities of making the parental benefits system more flexible, pursuing the principle that any amendment proposal should reduce neither the impact of the benefit to the demographic situation nor the competitiveness of parents on the labour market.
- 1.11 In order to harmonise family life and work, we will enable the parents to have their vacations at the same time and further develop parental education and services that support parenthood (e.g. training courses and advice on family matters, support persons).
- 1.12 In order to assist unemployed parents better, we will establish the same support measures for unemployed parents of a child up to 8 years of age that apply to young people up to 24 years of age (we will equalise the parents of young children to young persons concerning the labour market support measures).
- 1.13 We will recognise family-friendly businesses.

### *Development of parental education, protection of children*

1.14 We will develop parental education and services supporting parenthood.

1.15 We will introduce communication lessons into the curriculum of basic schools in order to enhance social awareness and prevent family violence, communication and relationship problems.

1.16 We will strengthen child protection and, in 2016, enforce a new state-controlled child protection arrangement that will be targeted at the prevention and reduction of social and health risks of children and young people (including support services for families as well as a family conciliation service).

### *Improvement of the coping of children with parents living apart or children deprived of parental care*

1.17 Following the interests of children, we aim at reducing maintenance allowance cases by using prevention measures and supporting parenthood.

1.18 In case a parent, who is a maintenance debtor, should fail to pay the maintenance allowance in time, the state will pay it instead and will claim the amount from that parent later. For that purpose, we will establish a maintenance assistance fund with the Social Security Board, from which children whose apart living parent does not pay the maintenance allowance will receive a monthly support amounting to 100 euros per a court judgement. We will analyse the establishing of a cap to the maintenance support, taking into consideration the income per each household member of the parent applying for the support from that fund.

1.19 In case a maintenance debtor fails to pay their debt to the maintenance assistance fund, the claim will be forwarded to an enforcement officer for enforcement. We will stipulate forceful state enforcement methods concerning the defaulting child maintenance debtors (refusal to grant state subsidies and issue activity licences, deduction of the maintenance allowance from the refundable amount of taxes and from the funded pensions plan). We will grant sufficient powers to enforcement officers to claim maintenance allowances and will stipulate that the maintenance claims remain effective until paid.

1.20 We will develop family-based and other forms of substitutive care of quality for children deprived of parental care. We will provide foster families with necessary support services and guarantee the same state funded possibilities to study further as exist in the substitute homes to young persons brought up in foster families.

## **2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE SUBSISTENCE OF THE LOW-PAID WORKERS**

2.1 We will establish a system of yearly refunds to low-paid workers, with which the state will support people in improving their living standards and will promote their employment (the system will take effect as of 1 January 2016). The new scheme will not replace the current subsistence benefits system, but is meant for adult employees who work permanently and full-time, receive at least the minimum wage, and whose monthly wage is their only income. The refunds will be calculated based on the changes in the minimum wage and poverty line. The payment amount will be calculated by subtracting 35 % of a person's gross monthly wage from the absolute poverty line, and by multiplying the difference with the number of months worked. The formula will be reviewed in the course of the annual state budget drafting. The refunds will be administered using the data available in the Tax and Customs Board, thus ensuring that the refunds will be made as quickly as possible and without increasing the administrative burden of the state.

2.2 In order to support families in need, we will raise the subsistence benefit rate up to 130 euros.

2.3 We will apply state measures that support the increase of productivity, improve the qualification of the workforce, increase employment numbers and decrease regional and gender based gaps in wages. When drafting the state budget strategy, we will listen to the views of the labour market parties concerning the policy on incomes. In parallel with the application of the measures by the state, we will make a proposition to the labour market parties to increase the minimum wage to at least 45 % of the average wage during the next four years. We will unlink indicators from the minimum wage that are not essentially connected to the latter.

2.4 In order to assist young people in finding work, we will initiate the project titled “My first place of work” and will support the further training of the employees aged 55+, will provide labour market services to old age pensioners capable of working and will extend the retraining possibilities by financing the training from the unemployment insurance fund.

### **3. REDUCTION OF LABOUR-RELATED TAXES**

3.1 We will reduce the social tax by 1 %, compensating the health and pension insurance portion from other income sources of the state budget. We will make the payment of the social tax and the receipt of social guarantees linked to it more flexible.

3.2 We will raise the income-tax-free threshold up to 205 euros per month.

### **4. STATE REFORM**

The purpose of the state reform is: to offer services of higher quality to people, to raise the competitiveness of rural areas, to reduce the public sector (*reduction of duplicated activities, reduction of workplaces in the government sector proportionally with the decrease in the population of working-age, and tightening the mutual co-operation between the statutory institutions and the governmental authorities*), to strengthen strategic planning, manage and monitor public sector activities as well as to increase the transparency of public sector budgets.

4.1 We will build on the principle that the number of workplaces in the governmental sector will be reduced proportionately to the decrease in the population of working-age. Aiming to reduce the number of workplaces and administrating agencies, we will reduce the duplication between ministries and state agencies as well as reduce over-regulation and bureaucracy in the public sector. We will reduce the duplication between state authorities and agencies administrating the European Union support and implementing the corresponding policy; we will also increase their mutual synergy. We will favour the inter-agency rotation of officials.

4.2 We will avoid over-regulation and over-production of legislative acts. We will set a requirement based on which a new legislative act will be drafted only under the condition that the *ultima ratio* principle is followed, i.e. if convincing justification and an analysis of the implementation practice are provided. We will favour the use of clear and simple legal and official language. We will initiate a broad-based parliamentary process with an objective to develop a legal culture that aims to reduce bureaucracy.

4.3 We will promote the cooperation between the ministries by increasing the role of the prime minister in solving the cooperation issues. We will review the rules of the government and the government agencies formation and functioning (the administrative organisation), in order to ensure that those rules would be more efficient and flexible and would allow to follow the political priorities of a specific election cycle.

4.4 We will determine the status and competency of ministers as political leaders of their respective areas. The ministers are, above all, members of a single government, who lead the activities of ministries in a coordinated manner and exercise the political supervision. A secretary general leads the administrative work of a ministry under the political guidance from the respective minister.

4.5 We will favour the relocation of public agencies operating autonomously and being loosely connected with the central government (foundations, inspectorates, administrative agencies and agencies) out from the capital. We consider this an important factor influencing regional development.

4.6 Aiming to increase the efficiency of the state management, we will continue with the structural reforms by consolidating the support services (accounting, personnel records, procurement, real estate), and, if possible, by providing other public services. We will ensure the balanced representation of the customer interests through leadership.

4.7 We will increase the transparency of the state budget, including by supporting the systematic transition to the activity-based budgeting, and will enhance the substantive reporting on the fulfilment of action programmes.

4.8 We will strengthen the strategic planning and monitoring capacity of the Riigikogu by involving the Development Fund and the Academy of Sciences more in the strategic issues.

#### *Reorganisation in the ministries' areas of responsibility*

4.9 In order to avoid the conflict of interests and for strengthening the supervision, we will transfer the Estonian Competition Authority from the administrative area of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure to the administrative area of the Ministry of Justice. We will transfer the area of regions from the Ministry of Interior and the area of administration policy and financial management of local governments from the Ministry of Finance to the responsibility area of the Minister of State Administration.

4.10 We will reorganise the Ministry of Agriculture into the Ministry of Rural Affairs, and we will analyse the transfer of the mineral resources administration from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, transfer of fisheries area from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Rural Affairs, and the planning area from the Ministry of Interior to the administrative area of the Ministry of Environment.

#### *The ownership policy of the state-owned companies and public procurement arrangement*

4.11 We will elaborate the ownership policy regarding state-owned companies, and in the course of that, we will review their current business plans and investment activities, and the salary policy concerning the directors of state-owned companies. When elaborating the ownership policy of state-owned companies we will also consider the ownership of the companies of which is justified by the state in the long term, based on security or economic reasons. We will set clear owner expectations to companies that continue to be under the ownership of the state. We will select the members of the management boards by competition and will appoint the members of supervisory boards, carefully observing that the independence and professionalism criteria are met. We will consider bringing the holdings of the state in companies under a single government unit.

4.12 We will update the organisation of public procurement and will promote e-procurement with the aim of allowing contracting authorities to consider the quality when evaluating tenders. We will set a good example with the public procurement arrangement for the development of a modern economic environment.

#### *Development of the e-State*

4.13 We will consider digitising services and the development of e-services to be a priority.

4.14 While developing e-services, we will pay more attention to the improvement of user-friendliness, *inter alia*, we will make the services of the e-State more available to people with special needs as well as making the services available in foreign languages.

4.15 We will implement the e-residency programme with the aim of bringing new investments, workplaces, international business activity and related income from taxes to Estonia. We will continuously develop the services for the e-citizens.

4.16 We will apply a uniform quality standard to the e-services provided by the state, and will consolidate the public e-services channels (*inter alia* will develop the Citizens Portal [www.eesti.ee](http://www.eesti.ee) to function as a gateway to the entire e-State).

4.17 We will continue to develop the e-Health solutions, that enable the provision of more personified and thereby more efficient health promotion, prevention of diseases and cure.

4.18 We will promote and support the introduction of digital signature in the entire European Union and the development of cross-border e-services, especially in the Baltic Sea region (*inter alia*, we will draft a road map for the development of common e-services together with Finland).

4.19 We will support the fight against the cybercrime, the implementation of the integrated cybersecurity monitoring system and the innovation within the area by placing smart public orders.

4.20 Against the background of extensive cross-usage of the data, we will consider it important to protect the privacy of people, so that an individual could, at any moment, see who and for what reason has used their data made available to the state.

4.21 We will bring into order and strengthen the coordination in management of the national ICT.

4.22 We will support the elaboration of future methods for identification of individuals and the development of current methods (e.g. mobile-ID and biometry).

#### *E-democracy and further development of the involvement, avoiding the digital gap*

4.23 We will develop further the e-voting environment, and will promote the opportunities for participation in the politics, following the principles of inclusive governance.

4.24 We will expand continuing education by introducing information technology possibilities and developing user skills as well as respective support services so that the greater majority of

the elderly people would become users of e-services and that non-users could benefit from the possibilities of e-services.

4.25 We will implement modern technological solutions that will facilitate the transparent management and governance on the level of the state and local governments.

4.26 We will favour the use of common IT platforms by the state and local governments.

#### *Strengthening parliamentary democracy*

4.27 We will strive for greater openness in the work of the Riigikogu, more extensive use of parliamentary reports based on scientific research and of impact analyses. We will put more emphasis on parliamentary control of the executive authorities and for this purpose; we will reinforce the capacity of the Riigikogu, its commissions and staff.

4.28 We will consider it important, in cooperation with the target groups and civil society groups, to better arrange the involvement, especially on the level of the commissions of the Riigikogu, and to increase the percentage of public hearings in the investigation and problem-solving commissions of the Riigikogu. We will strive to reach as broad a consensus as possible in matters concerning the work of the Riigikogu.

4.29 We will bring into conformity the legislative acts related to elections and will analyse the possibilities to activate political competition (including the cap of advertising costs, security payment, and the institution of a national list and the proportions of electoral districts). We will strive for consensus when introducing the amendments.

4.30 We will specify the definition of political advertising. We will establish effective restrictions on advertising campaigns of local governments and state agencies, the aim of which is to conduct hidden election campaigns.

4.31 We will declare void the restriction, which prohibits a member of the Riigikogu to participate in the work of a local government as a member of its council (we will exclude the possibility to receive two remunerations for the offices).

4.32 We will consider the opportunity of using referendums on a wider level.

4.33 In order to leave more time for the public and candidates to participate in the democratic debate in between the rounds of voting, we are going to propose an amendment to the current procedure of electing the President of the Republic.

4.34 In order to increase the number of active citizens and for including young people in public life, we will consider it reasonable to extend the active voting right at local elections to 16 years of age.

#### *Local administration reform*

The purpose of the local administration reform is to have local governments that would be able to offer better public services to people, to guarantee the growth of the regions' competitiveness, and to fulfil independently the tasks assigned to them by law. By 1 July 2016, in order to carry out the administrative reform, we will adopt necessary amendments in the

legislation, which, *inter alia*, will stipulate the final deadline of the reform and will be based on the following principles:

4.35 We will transfer the political coordination of the reform under the management of the Prime Minister.

4.36 In order to carry out the administrative reform, we will conduct the conformity assessment of the local governments to the established objective and unambiguous criteria. Local governments not in conformance with the criteria will have to join by the deadline stipulated by law. In case the merger will not be carried out in one year after the assessment, the Government of the Republic will enforce the merger.

4.37 We will establish the tasks of the local governments by law and will regulate the activities of the merged local governments so that local governments could provide uniform services all over Estonia. We will authorise local governments who meet the criteria, in addition to the tasks of a regular local government, to perform other public duties financed separately by the government. In the course of the administrative reform, we will elaborate a new financing model for local governments.

4.38 In order to preserve the specific character of regions and communities, and for ensuring the availability of public services in the merged local governments, we will extend the rights of rural municipality districts (town districts) by law. We will establish by law the principles of formation of the rural municipality districts, town districts and towns within rural municipalities, of their statutes, of allocation of tasks, of budgeting and democratic management, and will determine clearly the issues regarding the status of a town located inside a rural municipality.

4.39 All steps will be planned in a way to enable the finishing of the voluntary merger process of the local governments, taking place within the framework of the reform, by the time of local elections in 2017.

4.40 We will support local governments who merge voluntarily in order to meet the criteria twice as much as before.

4.41 We will update the state supervision over the local governments. If possible, we will transfer the current tasks of the county governments, which are in the essence the tasks of local governments, to the local governments fulfilling the criteria.

4.42 We will update the administration of the capital region.

4.43 We will unify the sectorial and regional management and the territorial planning on the state level.

#### *Public sector remuneration policy*

4.44 We will increase the salaries in the public sector in conformity with the general increase of productivity in society. We will continue to increase salaries in the areas of culture, education, social work and internal security – the police, rescue, tax and customs officers – at faster pace.

## 5. STOPPING THE DEVELOPMENT INTO PERIPHERIES

### *Promoting entrepreneurship in rural municipalities*

5.1 We will set the enhancement of the role, capacity and motivation of the local governments for creating jobs – as one of the aims of the state reform.

5.2 We will promote the establishment of joint agencies by separate local governments. We will introduce actively, by investor servicing and business counselling, the local opportunities to become engaged in business and create new jobs.

5.3 If possible, we will take into consideration the regional location of enterprises when carrying out the public procurement of services and products.

5.4 For supporting regional enterprises, we will initiate a programme for connecting power and communication networks and road building, building on the following principle: one part – by the state, one part – by the local government and one part – by the enterprise. Additionally, we will consider the restoration of support to the processing industry for the purposes of investments into product development, the respective technology and equipment.

5.5 We will bring into order and activate the rental apartments market. We will elaborate a rental-housing programme in order to support the mobility of labour all over Estonia.

### *New industrial parks, fixing up the old ones and local roads*

5.6 We will continue to support the establishment of industrial parks and areas. We will support the creation of old industrial areas and registered immovable in order to create conditions for the emergence of new industrial structures.

5.7 We will develop and extend programmes and activities targeted at demolishing the buildings that are derelict or lost their purpose.

5.8 We will continue the programme for keeping national and local roads dust-free. We will increase the financing of local roads.

### *Regional programmes, promotion of job creation and local energy management*

5.9 We will continue to support the implementation of the regional development measures of national importance that support the creation of jobs outside Tartu and Tallinn (including the implementation of the North-East and South-East action plans and the Setomaa and Peipsiveere, as well as the small islands programmes). We will also continue to finance current regional culture programmes.

5.10 We will acknowledge that the preparation of draft laws should involve the regional policy impact assessment.

5.11 We will enhance the cooperation between the ministries in planning and implementing the regional investments.

5.12 In order to create cheaper energy solutions, we will prefer and support the introduction of the renewable and alternative energy carriers in local energy management.

### *EU regional policy instruments, support to rural life*

5.13 We will target the new EU regional policy instruments at creating jobs in the private sector in rural centres and other developing regional areas. If possible, we will prefer projects aimed at the cooperation between economic operators.

5.14 We will support the diversification of rural life (including promotion of small farms, small businesses and rural tourism).

5.15 While reorganising the state agencies and their support services, we will prefer county centres and small towns as their locations, if possible.

5.16 We will set an example in the public sector by increasing the proportion of distance working.

*Passing the land to be used for civil purposes and economic activity on land imposed with restrictions*

5.17 We will favour the allocation of state-owned land that would be necessary for business development or residential building construction to local governments, and will simplify the process of passing land to be used for civil purposes.

5.18 We will specify the restrictions imposed on protected areas and objects in order to allow reasonable business activities that would cause minimal disturbance to the natural environment in those areas.

5.19 We will acknowledge that owners shall be involved at an early stage in all processes pertaining to their property (planning, planning of restrictions for protection, construction of structures, etc.).

5.20 When imposing restrictions, we will follow the principle that legal acts restricting the use and disposal of the property in the interests of the society and the obligation to tolerate should be balanced with fair compensation mechanisms.

## **6. NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE**

For ensuring the independent defence capability of Estonia, we will consider professional well-trained members of the Defence Forces, well-rehearsed reservists, dedicated members of the Defence League, the conscripts performing their civil duty, and the close cooperation with civil structures equally important. We will work for achieving as big a political common share as possible in the development of the national defence. The objectives of the Government Coalition in strengthening the security of Estonia are: increasing deterrence against military aggression, quicker development of independent defence capability, capability to stand up against the aggression by including activities of the whole community, capability to quickly resolve any hybrid conflicts, increase the coherence of the Estonian society and the readiness to stand up against the information war.

*Development of national defence*

6.1 We will unify the strategic documents regarding the security policy and national defence by reducing duplication and by transferring the coordinative role to the government. The Riigikogu will approve the foundation document on the security policy.

6.2 We will continue to implement the broad-based national security and defence, and will increase the leading role of the Prime Minister and the Government Office at that. We will elaborate and adopt legal acts necessary for implementing the National Defence Act. We will finalise the reform of the national defence management, building on the amendment of the Constitution in 2011, by defining the central role of the Government, including of the Security Committee of the Government of the Republic in organising the national defence.

6.3 We will maintain military defence expenses (defence budget) at at least 2 % of the GDP level. In addition, we will finance the activities of Estonia as a recipient country creating the conditions for the permanent presence of allies in Estonia (the regular training courses pursuant to article 5, pre-positioned equipment, arranging the Baltic air policing from Ämari, presence of rotating units, etc.). In developing military capacities, we will pursue threat assessments and

military advice given by the Defence Forces. In creating all new capabilities and in carrying out procurements for defence purposes, and when planning budgetary resources for this purpose, we will take into consideration the costs of the entire life cycle of the weapon systems.

6.4 We will consider important the continuous updating of the NATO collective defence plans and the presence of the necessary defence capabilities and forces in Estonia, in accordance with the changing threat situation.

6.5 We will acknowledge the close bilateral cooperation with our major military allies, especially with the United States. We will support the permanent presence of allies and the visible deterrence by NATO in Estonia and in the neighbouring region. We will build an infrastructure for receiving allied forces in Estonia, for positioning the NATO control element (NFIU), and for storing the pre-positioned equipment.

6.6 We will support and participate in the formation and development of the rapid reaction forces of NATO and allies.

6.7 In aiming to ensure the security of the region, we will acknowledge the importance of close political and practical cooperation with the Baltic rim countries belonging to the EU and/or NATO.

6.8 We will support the coordination of the military cooperation between Europe and NATO. It is important for Estonia to continue contributing to the Nordic Battlegroup.

6.9 We will adjust the Ämari air base to be in full conformity with the requirements of the collective defence and support the establishment of a training base for the United States air force there.

6.10 We will share the doctrine of collective defence and security — we will support Estonia's active participation in NATO, EU, and UN and in the military and peacekeeping missions of the allies' coalitions.

6.11 We will keep updated the cybersecurity strategy of Estonia; we will contribute to the modernisation and increase of the effectiveness of the NATO cybersecurity by developing the NATO cybersecurity excellence centre in Tallinn. We will stand for the cybersecurity and cyber freedoms, and will give our share in elaborating the cybersecurity policy of the European Union.

6.12 We will bring to Estonia international training events in the area of the cybersecurity. We will develop the international cyber training environment of NATO — the NATO Cyber Range. We will support the activities of the Cyber Defence League and the development of other high-tech capacities of the Defence League.

6.13 We will draft a mobilisation plan involving the whole society, and the corresponding notification system, pursuing the broad-based approach to the national defence. We will consider it necessary to establish wartime mobilisation resources for their reasonable distribution to the providers of military defence, civil support, security and vital services of the state.

6.14 We will ensure that citizens are well informed of the national defence issues, and of their own role in it. We will put emphasis on the protection of citizens and on the notification of the people, and on training how to act in different crises. Each citizen and organisation wishing to participate in the national defence will know their role and duties during a crisis.

6.15 We will expand the cooperation between navy fleets and different agencies (e.g. border guard), and will aim at developing a base port conforming to requirements.

6.16 We will improve the service environment (living, training and sport facilities) of the professional members of the Defence Forces as well as of the conscripts.

6.17 We will continue to develop practice fields and target ranges in order to provide necessary training facilities for the Estonian Defence Forces, the Defence League and for the allies' forces posted to Estonia.

6.18 We will update the organisation of the service in the Defence Forces, and in order to make the military service more attractive, will guarantee state health insurance to conscripts who have passed the military service during the first three months.

6.19 We will support the raising of the prestige of the military service and education in the society, including increasing the salaries of the members of the Defence Forces, and increasing the compensation for the conscripts by 50 %.

6.20 We will provide compensation to all reservists attending the training courses for the loss of wages they would suffer because of it (defence salary, fixed principle: 50 % according to the post, 50 % of the current salary), and we will establish the obligation of an employer to keep the workplace available for a conscript or for a person summoned to the reservists training.

6.21 In cooperation with the allies, we will continue to develop the Baltic Defence College into an international high-level centre for military education, and will intensify the cooperation between the college and the Estonian National Defence College.

6.22 We consider it important to give objective information to the people of Estonia, and to develop the psychological defence that would enable to avoid the impact of the hostile manipulations with the information.

### *The Defence League*

6.23 We will promote the capabilities of the Defence League, as an important part of the guarantee of the national security of Estonia, incl. the management and quick reaction capabilities and the purchasing of the supplies.

6.24 We will aim at the increase of the number of the Defence League members up to 30 000.

6.25 We will establish a single registration list of the members of the voluntary national defence and law enforcement institutions (Defence League, assistant police officers, voluntary rescuers), and will ensure training courses that would be in conformity with the broad-based national defence principles.

6.26 We will analyse the possibility to increase the financing of the Defence League based on the change of the internal emphases within the state defence budget.

### *Broad-based national defence*

6.27 We will favour the participation of the think tanks in formation of the national security, in order to involve the best knowledge and different standpoints.

6.28 We will establish a programme for supporting the voluntary defence will of the people, who neither have passed the military service nor belong to the Defence League, and, *inter alia*, we will provide free courses on the national defence for them.

6.29 We will turn the lessons regarding broad-based national defence issues (part of which is a national-defence-themed camping) into a part of the national curriculum in the upper secondary level. We will arrange to allow each school to have a qualified teacher of national defence and patriotic education, thus turning the role of a teacher of national defence into a part of the careers of the members of the Defence Forces and the Defence League.

6.30 We will consider the establishment of one upper secondary education institution with intensive classes on the national defence issues.

6.31 We will support the activities of youth organisations of the Defence League.

6.32 We will support the development of the defence industry, incl. the access of the defence industry to the export markets.

6.33 We will promote the scientific and development activities on the defence purposes, will support the involvement of the Estonian small and medium enterprises in the European projects

relating to the defence industry, and the participation of the Estonian universities in international research on security and defence issues.

6.34 We will promote the voluntary participation of women in military service.

6.35 We will make an additional inventory of the infrastructure that must ensure the continuation of the provision of vital services in emergency, crisis and war situations; we will inspect the safety requirements and the organisation of the surveillance of the objects at risk, the measures to cope with possible calamity scenarios, and we will arrange the respective trainings more frequently.

6.36 We will finalise the building of the eastern border (along the control line), including an integrated technical monitoring system worthy of the external border of Europe and NATO, will ensure the manning of a special border guard force and complement the supplies of the border guard with equipment, including with armaments, based on the risk assessment.

6.37 We will specify the restrictions concerning the acquiring of immovable property, based on security reasons.

6.38 We will continue to carry out and develop further the up-to-date military veterans' policies. We will acknowledge the contribution of the citizens of Estonia standing up for the *de facto* recognition of the Republic of Estonia during the occupations, and the contribution of the veterans to the development of the statehood of Estonia.

## **7. FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN UNION POLICY**

7.1 The objective of the Estonian foreign policy is to safeguard the continuation of the independence of the state of Estonia, effective protection and promotion of the national interests on the international arena. We will achieve this by ensuring the security of the state and the citizens, by increasing the reputation and involvement of Estonia in the world, and by creating better opportunities for our businesses considering the global competition.

7.2 The effective European Union and NATO policies that protect the common interests of the member states are in the national interest of Estonia. Estonia must target its activities to achieving and strengthening this objective. Estonia is an active and cooperative member state of the European Union and NATO.

7.3 We consider important to continue the strengthening of the good relations with the United States. Estonia will continue the active policy for strengthening the strategic partnership between the European Union and the United States.

7.4 We will make good organisational as well as substantive preparations for the Estonian Presidency in the European Union in 2018. During the period of the Presidency, we see the development of the single digital market, establishment of the energy union and strengthening of the unified foreign and the eastern partnership policy as our possible priorities.

7.5 We will stand for close alliance with all Member States of NATO and of the European Union.

7.6 We consider important the conclusion of the free trade agreement (TTIP) between the European Union and the United States as soon as possible.

7.7 We will work for stronger and more solid European Union. The trust in Europe must be based on solid democratic legal principles and on the four freedoms — the free movement of workers, goods, services and the capital.

7.8 We will favour closer cooperation in legal and internal matters within the European Union, most of all in matters related to combating the organised crime.

7.9 We will keep paying attention to the energy security issues in the European Union, by linking them with the common foreign and security policy.

7.10 In order to support the economic development of the European Union, we will stand for the development of the internal market of the European Union, including the development of

the digital internal market. We will also support the establishment of the energy union in order to ensure the energy security and the availability of energy at reasonable prices to our businesses and consumers.

7.11 We acknowledge the granting of a more extensive mandate to the European Commission for the Union-wide energy trade, and the reduction of dependence from the Russian energy that involves high risks.

7.12 In order to stand up against the quickly increasing immigration pressure, we will support the strengthening of the border agency of the European Union, will support the implementation of the European Union entry and departure register and the use of new border control information systems at the external border of the EU, that would enable to control better the persons crossing the external border of the EU and the immigrants.

7.13 We will support the continuation of Estonia's active participation in the cooperation of the member states of the European Union under the Civil Protection Mechanism.

7.14 We consider it necessary to strengthen the eastern partnership policy of the European Union, especially in order to support Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova in their efforts to maintain their sovereignty and their territorial integrity and in implementing reforms.

7.15 We will support the right of each European country to be independent in their decisions concerning their external policy and to apply for the membership in the European Union and NATO.

7.16 With the purpose of ensuring the security of the region, we will acknowledge the importance of close political and practical cooperation with the Baltic rim countries belonging to the EU and/or NATO.

7.17 We will set up our candidacy for becoming a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2020.

7.18 We will be actively engaged in the notification and condemnation of crimes conducted by the Communist and Nazi regimes. We will contribute to the establishment of a centre for investigating the crimes conducted by the Communist and Nazi regimes and will support the financing of the research works, films and exhibitions on those topics.

7.19 We will claim an observer status for Estonia in the Arctic Council in order to expand our cooperation with the Nordic countries and to provide our scientists additional research opportunities.

7.20 We will strengthen the diplomatic capacity of Estonia in countries that are our important allies, in regions of the world with growing economy and in international organisations, and will stand for the availability of quick and adequate assistance to the citizens of Estonia when they seek assistance from any European Union member state's representation in the world.

7.21 In order to increase the security of the citizens of Estonia abroad, we will support the imposition of the consular functions to the European External Action Service.

7.22 We will stand for the provision of rights to the citizens of Estonia equal to other EU Member States citizens regarding the exemption from the visa requirement by third countries.

7.23 We will improve cooperation between institutions dealing with external economic policy. We will consider the necessity to establish the cross-agency coordination platform Team Estonia, for bringing smart foreign investments and well paid workplaces to Estonia.

7.24 We will introduce and popularise Estonia as a business and investment environment to possible foreign investors.

7.25 We will consider it necessary to formulate targeted regional strategies.

7.26 We will be actively engaged in the protection and promotion of basic liberal values — freedoms, democracy and human rights — in Estonia, in the European Union as well as outside the borders of the EU via bilateral and multilateral development cooperation programmes.

7.27 We will ensure that Estonia would protect the principles of international law and democratic values, would call attention to the violation of human rights, would support the

democratic movements in different parts of the world, and would contribute to the improvement of the situation of unrepresented nations and peoples.

7.28 Through our representatives, we will do everything possible to ensure that international organisations established for the protection of the universal rights and democratic values (UN, the Council of Europe, OSCE, etc.) would not forget their ideals and the goals set upon their establishment.

7.29 We will further diplomatic, economic and cultural relations, and, *inter alia*, will provide development assistance and will be engaged in the development cooperation with all countries, if this is in Estonia's national interests, pursuing international law.

7.30 We will favour the development of think tanks regarding external and security policy into recognised international scientific centres.

7.31 In relations with Russia, we will consider it important to alleviate the possible tensions, taking into consideration the interests of Estonia and its allies.

## **8. RAISING OF INCOMES AND PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

### *The principles of fiscal and tax policy*

**8.1** We will continue the responsible budgeting policy and will keep the budget in a structural balance without slackening the current budgeting rules. We will also demand compliance with the budgeting rules agreed upon within the European Union from other countries.

**8.2** In order to foster the economic growth and the fair competition, we will continue to improve the tax collection, without increasing disproportionately the administrative burden of the enterprises.

**8.3** We will pay special attention to the transactions between parent and subsidiary companies. In order to facilitate the control affected by the tax authority over the transfer of profit out of Estonia, we will obligate the related parties to declare the loans they receive or give on a monthly basis as well as their deposits along with the interest and the return.

**8.4** We will avoid the taxation of investments.

**8.5** We will exempt from the income tax the profit received from alienating subsidiaries located abroad.

**8.6** We will analyse the possibilities of motivating local governments to create more favourable business environments.

**8.7** We will consider allowing businesses to make donations exempt from taxes to free and publicly available sports facilities, and whether or not to consider an employers' contribution to the health promotion and avoidance of sickness days to be a fringe benefit.

**8.8** In order to create more favourable conditions for investment and establishment of headquarters in Estonia, and to pay dividends earned in Estonia out in Estonia, we will analyse the cancelling of double taxation of the dividends in the case of holdings under 10 %.

**8.9** We will analyse the cancelling of the withholding of income tax from licence fees, as this would increase the cost of investments into high technological equipment and processes.

**8.10** We will analyse the proposals on simplifying taxation and reporting obligations of sole proprietors submitted by the Working Group on Legal Regulations Applying to the Sole Proprietors that the Ministry of Justice convened.

**8.11** We will analyse the imposing of excise duty on energy drinks.

**8.12** Following the principle of equal treatment, we will analyse the exemption from land tax the owners of land in joint ownership or intended for multiple purposes.

### *Business, vocational training and better cooperation between the businesses, science and development*

**8.13** We will integrate basic financial literacy, training for entrepreneurship, programming and robotics into the curricula of all educational levels and will expand the selection of optional and elective subjects on these topics. We will support the better preparedness of young people for the labour market and business by promoting career and entrepreneurship education and will put emphasis on the development of creativity, enterprise and industriousness in the curricula of general education.

**8.14** In order to enhance the quality of education, we will involve employers to the planning and implementation of the educational policy.

**8.15** When processing the business-related draft legislation, we will involve the business organisations and will conduct the analysis of the impact of the planned changes on the administrative burden of enterprises and on the business environment. We will set a goal that the general time after which the legislative acts having a significant impact on the taxation environment would take effect would be at least 6 months after the passing of the act.

**8.16** We will introduce apprenticeship training.

**8.17** We will establish the Entrepreneurs' Day celebration.

**8.18** We will support businesses in raising the quality of management. We consider necessary the systematic promotion and the valuing of sustainable and responsible business activities.

**8.19** We will favour the cooperation between businesses and scientists and the more extensive input by scientific institutions into the close-to-the-market development of products and technology. Taking into consideration the best practices of the European countries, we will create additional motivators for involving the private capital in financing of the scientific and research activities.

**8.20** In cooperation with universities and businesses, we will develop the possibilities for formalising and commercialising patents.

#### *Estonia and the marketing of Estonian enterprises*

**8.21** We will elaborate and implement a strategy for globally marketing Estonia as a destination for brains, investments, workplaces and tourism. We will work together with the private sector in order to ensure that an international conference and exhibition centre would be built in Estonia.

**8.22** We will see that our external diplomacy would serve the needs of the economic development more than at present. In order to stimulate the exports and for bringing investments to Estonia we will establish a global ESTONIA-network, where would belong the Estonian representations abroad, the honorary consuls — business representatives, the compatriots living and working abroad, the friends of Estonia and their associations.

**8.23** We consider important the continuous training and provision of advice to enterprises on marketing issues. In order to stimulate the exports, we will develop the state support services, including the export guarantees.

**8.24** We will use the structural funds of the European Union with the purpose to facilitate the increase of productivity and the entering of Estonian enterprises to the export markets. We will concentrate the support provided by the structural funds of the European Union to the development activities in order to direct the enterprises to making investments in technology and to product development. We will analyse periodically the purposefulness and effectiveness of the support given to businesses.

#### *Support to business (incl. start-ups), development of the business environment and small business*

**8.25** We will review the regulations concerning the support to the business (Enterprise Estonia, Development Fund, Kredex), in order to exclude the adverse impact on the internal competition. We wish to provide the state support mainly for enhancement of the product and service design, the leap in technology, the raise of marketing and other capacities for export of the companies acting on the external markets, and for the start-ups engaged in technological innovation.

**8.26** We will continue to link the support for businesses with training courses and consulting services.

**8.27** We will improve the availability of capital for growing businesses. While supporting the business, we will aim to replace the support for investments with financial instruments (loans, guarantee), or combine the latter.

**8.28** We will initiate the elaboration of the basic principles of the industrial policy of Estonia.

**8.29** We will develop the business environment, with the aim of shaping Estonia into the most attractive area in the world. We will initiate acceleration programmes for start-ups. We will improve the availability of risk capital for starting enterprises with a big growth potential via funds co-owned by the state.

**8.30** We will decrease the administrative burden of the small enterprises, *inter alia*, by continuing to adhere to the principle that the state may ask any data only once, and we will analyse the alternatives for simplifying the taxation of micro-enterprises.

**8.31** We acknowledge the activities of the business networks and encourage the enterprises to cooperate more closely, including in the form of cooperative societies.

**8.32** We will analyse the regulation that excludes the granting of the status of an unemployed person to the members of the boards of enterprises, in case they lose their salaried work.

**8.33** We will analyse which actions must be taken in order to assist the socially responsible enterprises in their development.

#### *Development of the capital market and the agreements on avoiding the double taxation*

**8.34** We will support the development of the domestic capital market in a way that would not burden the taxpayers and would be economically sustainable. We will promote the offering of different financial instruments at the securities market of Estonia.

**8.35** We will take measures to improve the availability of capital to small and medium-sized enterprises.

**8.36** We will simplify the regulations concerning investments so that Estonian pension and investment funds could invest into the economy of Estonia more fully.

**8.37** We will favour the agreements on simplifying trade and protecting the investments of Estonian businesses. We will continue to conclude agreements on the avoidance of double taxation with our important export partners.

#### *Effective use of the state resources*

**8.38** We will aim at using the local resources in a more productive, sparing and effective manner. We consider it appropriate, when allocating the raw material resources owned by the state, to take into consideration the effectiveness of the production technology and the sparing use of resources (energy, environment, finances).

#### *Modern infrastructure and transport system*

**8.39** We will stand for the possibility to apply measures by the state in order to ensure the flight connections necessary for Estonia. In order to enhance the attractiveness of Estonia as a business and investment destination, we consider important the existence of flight connections with the capitals and financial centres of Europe.

**8.40** We will expand the flight traffic area of the Tallinn Airport that would improve the safety of air traffic and reduce the impact on the environment.

**8.41** We will start with the building of the Rail Baltic that will connect us with the Central Europe and will serve cargo transport as well as passengers.

**8.42** We will support the building of a multimodal transport centre at Ülemiste that will connect the air, rail, tram and bus transport. We will connect the Rail Baltic terminal with the airport.

**8.43** We will guarantee modern air and maritime connections between the islands and mainland of Estonia. We will purchase a new ferry for the connection between the islands of Saaremaa and Hiiumaa.

**8.44** We will improve the capacity of the railway infrastructure. We will reconstruct the infrastructure and increase the speed limits of the passenger trains on the Tallinn-Rapla, Tallinn-Keila-Paldiski, Tapa-Tartu and Tapa-Narva railroad routes.

**8.45** We will support the development of the Muuga merchant port into a container transport hub, which will serve also the transport of goods in the West-East and North-South directions. We will reconstruct the port of Hundipea that is required for providing the ice-breaking service.

**8.46** We will continue to renew the road network. Better planning and procurement arrangement as well as more efficient owner's supervision will improve the quality of road building. In order to enable the long-term planning, we will guarantee stable financing for roads. We will prepare a long-term financing plan for the roads.

**8.47** We aim to build the Tallinn-Tartu road in four lines up to Mäo by 2020. For that, we will analyse the possibilities to involve additional funding.

**8.48** We will continue to renovate the Tallinn-Narva road. We will build the 2+1 overtaking lanes to the Tallinn-Pärnu and Põltsamaa-Tartu roads, and will finalise the building of the Tallinn roundabout and the western detour in Tartu. We will use the European funds for reconstructing the Haabersti roundabout, and for development of the mobility area between the Vanasadam and town centre (Reidi road).

**8.49** We will support the improvement of transport connections between the county centres and the commuting centres, where economically feasible.

**8.50** We will require stricter state surveillance in Tallinn and in other parts of Estonia over the compliance with the requirements for the state of the roads, and will review the sanctions.

**8.51** We will continue the programme for covering gravel roads with tarmac.

**8.52** In order to raise the competitiveness of the road transport and of the carriage of goods, we will invest in the main roads and bridges that would allow increasing the weight limit for trucks.

**8.53** We will promote the use of the new information technological solutions in transport, i.e. the intelligent transportation systems that will facilitate the connections between the different modes of mobility, and will turn the transport user-friendlier and more efficient. Each year, we will direct part of the money to finance the transport solutions that would enhance the effectiveness.

**8.54** We will establish a link between land use and transport planning. One must take into consideration the transport connections when planning new living areas. Planning must take into account the accessibility, in order to reduce the forced movement and empty runs.

**8.55** High-speed internet access must be widely available in Estonia. Therefore, we will continue to develop the Estwin communication network, so that the new communication

technologies and services would reach the Estonian consumers quickly and at as favourable prices as possible.

**8.56** We will take steps to improve the traffic safety. By 2020, the various road safety measures, modern technology and outreach should take us so far as to significantly reduce the number of traffic fatalities. We will set a distant goal that Estonia would not lose any lives in traffic. We consider it important to develop a new road safety programme and the handling of the matter on the government level.

**8.57** To as a great extent as possible, we will put into use the potential of new passenger trains. For that, we will link the train transport to other modes of mobility by improving the access to the train stations, and by adjusting the schedules to meet better the needs of passengers.

**8.58** We will analyse the restoration of the regional train service in Riisipere–Haapsalu section.

**8.59** We will analyse the taxation of heavy goods vehicles for using roads, if the income from that would be directed to road maintenance.

### *Maritime affairs*

**8.60** We will consider any necessary changes for the development of the maritime sector in Estonia, a maritime country, and the changes necessary for starting the second shipping register.

### *Support to the increase of productivity and innovation*

**8.61** We will increase the opportunities for enterprises to apply for innovation support. In order to involve the private capital into research and development, we will consider the establishment of the EAS research units, that the enterprises engaged in specific research and development projects could apply.

**8.62** We will continue the development of the e-environment (Company Registration Portal, a new e-Tax Board) that has been created to facilitate the activities of business start-ups, small businesses, and the communication with the state. We will automate the reporting, statistics collection and control, and make it thus less burdening for the enterprises.

**8.63** We will promote the real-time (online) economy, for which we will apply the e-Invoices system and automatic reporting of taxes.

**8.64** We will support the implementation of new technologies to push ahead the economic growth and well-being (including the spread of the 3D printing technology, the development of solutions for the Internet of Things, and of the test environment for driverless car making, etc.), and the development of a favourable legal environment for Estonia to be one of the first countries in the world to implement the new technologies.

**8.65** We will update the legislation related to the ICT sector, e-business and e-services.

**8.66** We will develop the policy for possible recognition and use of virtual currencies.

**8.67** We will develop an infrastructure (open data, e-residency, etc.) that will enable the private sector to create new business solutions.

**8.68** We will support the improvement of the availability of the broadband services all over Estonia.

**8.69** We will elaborate a holistic strategy for spreading and marketing the e-state solutions. We will aim at the development of Estonia into a sustaining global leader in e-economy and a cutting-edge business environment for enterprises that develop information technology applications.

**8.70** We will establish a public sector innovation task force by the Government Office, which would be dealing with public services, public procurement and social entrepreneurship.

**8.71** In order to develop the ICT sector, we will increase the immigration quota, so that more ICT professionals and their families could settle in Estonia.

**8.72** We will promote education in the areas of natural science, engineering and technology in accordance with the technology pact.

**8.73** We will promote the export of Estonian IT solutions and expertise.

*Ensuring the development of the skills needed in the information society*

**8.74** We will value ICT training and digital competence development in all schools providing general education.

**8.75** We will value the acquisition of the digital competences during the lifelong learning process, so that the people would be prepared to accept smart jobs.

## **9. ENERGETICS**

9.1 In the future, the electricity supply of Estonia must be guaranteed by a combination of domestic, of competitive production capacity in the European Union internal market, and by strong connections with other European Union Member States' electricity networks, which is sufficient to cover Estonia's peak load.

9.2 We will favour the diversification of Estonia's energy portfolio, including the increase in the share of local and biofuels in transport, and the advancement of decentralised, local-fuel-based small-scale production.

9.3 We will support the implementation of energy-saving measures, including the requirement for construction of the nearly zero energy buildings. We will enhance the energy efficiency in public buildings, at design, building or renovation stage. We will create the conditions and environment for the emergence of energy cooperatives and businesses providing energy services.

9.4 We will support the development of oil shale technologies and renewable energy technologies. We will also encourage to apply, by establishing new production capacities (oil production, power generation, including wind farms), solutions, which enable Estonia to gain wider benefits from the industrial sector value chain than just operating the production capacity, and that will generate new jobs in Estonia in connection with the development and production of energy technologies,.

9.5 By 2030, we aim to develop Estonia from a country importing the energy carriers into an exporting country. This will ensure energy security and enhance local employment.

9.6 We would like to have a common energy policy in the European Union, including joint procurement and reduction of dependence on imported fuels.

9.7 We would like to have a single Nordic-Baltic electricity market, including the construction of an additional Estonian-Latvian electricity transmission line.

9.8 We will set a priority for Elering AS to decouple the Estonian electricity system from the frequency range of Northwest Russia, and to connect it to the frequency range of the European mainland by the year 2025.

9.9 We will favour the quick development of the Baltic regional gas infrastructure (connections between Finland and the Baltic countries, including the Baltic Connector), its integration into the common European Union gas market, the acquisition of the main gas transmission system by a state-owned company, and the establishment of a security reserve of natural gas, and the building of liquefied natural gas terminals.

9.10 We will consider ways for Estonia to become a competitive location also for energy-intensive industries. We will analyse the possibilities to improve the reliability of energy supply, the competitiveness, and the access to the grid on equal conditions. In order to ensure the regionally balanced economic development opportunities, we will analyse the possibilities for partial compensation of the connection to electricity grid.

9.11 We will analyse the different options for improving the quality of energy supply in Hiiumaa (including the transmission network connection to the island).

9.12 During the current EU budget period, we will continue the residential buildings renovation programme worth 100 million euros, in order to improve energy efficiency and reduce the running costs for housing. Where possible, we will provide support for the energy-saving investments of private house owners. We will analyse the possibilities to continue with residential energy efficiency-enhancing investments after the support by the EU ends.

9.13 We will favour planning that reduces forced movement, the development of public transport and non-motorised traffic, and the production of transport fuels from renewable resources that contribute to the local economy.

9.14 We will provide renewable energy support to micro-producers of renewable electricity for the total amount of their contribution to the grid.

9.15 We will analyse the implementation of the energy balance system, which is an opportunity for the micro-producers to produce renewable energy for the network, and balance this with their own energy consumption within a year.

9.16 We will direct the development of the oil shale sector towards reduced environmental impact. When using oil shale as an energy source, we will support the measures that ensure the highest possible efficiency.

9.17 We will refrain from shale extraction swelling compared to the existing mining permits. When using the oil shale, we will pursue the environmental burden and manufacturing flexibility of the oil shale industry.

9.18 We will create for the Estonian renewable energy producers and developers equal and technology-neutral opportunities for the implementation of flexible mechanisms for cooperation as provided in the Renewable Energy Directive.

9.19 We will analyse the need for the creation of a separate administrative unit with the goal of concentrating competence in the energy sector.

9.20 We will set a long-term goal in electricity and heat production for the gradual transition to renewable energy. The renewable energy sector development must proceed in an economic manner for the consumers.

9.21 We will continue with the heat sector reform, aiming to produce 80 % of the heat consumed in Estonia from domestic biofuels by 2030.

9.22 We aim to ensure that the share of the renewable energy in final energy consumption accounts for half of the consumption by 2030.

9.23 We will support the sustainable use of energy sources and prioritise the development of combined heat and power production.

9.24 We will elaborate and adopt the District Heating Act, Electricity Market Act and a development plan for the energy sector.

9.25 In the framework of the trade in statistics, we will support, in case of efficient combined production, the use of timber in Narva power plants.

## **10. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH POLICY**

### *Work capacity reform*

10.1 We will ensure, together with the social partners, the performance of the objectives and activities, agreed upon in the agreement on the work capacity reform. We will implement the work capacity reform, ensuring the continuing performance of the new work capacity support benefits system, and preparing the principles for continuing the financing after the termination of EU funds, with minimal bureaucracy and administrative burden.

10.2 We will expand the protected and supported employment services.

10.3 We will continue to support the employment of people with reduced work capacity by providing tax incentives for employers.

10.4 We will increase the availability of assistive devices for ensuring the work capacity of people.

### *Regulation of the labour market*

10.5 We will encourage a smooth transition of youth with disabilities from the general education system to vocational training, and after that, to the labour market, by developing flexible implementation options, by involving combined social work and various forms of social entrepreneurship.

10.6 We will carry out the analysis of the impact of the Employment Contracts Act.

10.7 We will empower the Labour Inspectorate to protect the rights of minors more extensively.

10.8 We will create a national identification mark “A diverse workplace”, which recognises companies that promote equality.

10.9 We will reduce the wage gap by granting powers to the Labour Inspectorate for supervising the wages and benefits paid by employers to women and men for equal work.

10.10 We will provide employers with free advice and training by the state, for making the work environment safer and for reducing the number of occupational accidents and diseases. We will encourage employers to carry out activities to promote the health of workers, will enhance the opportunities to receive timely medical treatment, rehabilitation and support services, and will develop the occupational health system, the integral part of which is private insurance against accidents at work and against occupational diseases.

### *Social protection of disabled people and of their carers*

10.11 We will significantly increase the financial support provided to parents who are legalised as caregivers of children with a severe disability.

10.12 We will improve the accessibility of disabled people to the living environment and to information, considering the specificity of their disability.

10.13 We will support people with special needs by adapting their homes, and we consider it necessary to develop the personal assistants system and develop home care in order to enable people with special needs to manage their own life.

10.14 We will analyse the functioning of the system of benefits paid to people with special needs in order to find the best and most appropriate opportunities for the coping of the respective persons.

10.15 We will support the development of a strong civil society based guardianship of the elderly, of people with disabilities and of patient advocacy activities as well as the development of initiatives that contribute to community work and social entrepreneurship.

10.16 We will ensure that children with special needs have the opportunity to attend a nursing school or childcare institution. We will develop rehabilitation and support services for children with special needs and ensure the services' uniform quality. We will improve children's rehabilitation and support services in order to enable the parents of children with special needs to work and rest. We will ensure timely access to needed services to the parents of children with special needs or born with a health disorder.

### *Pensions and the elderly*

10.17 We will ensure the growth of pensions in line with wage growth and keep the average old-age pension tax-free.

10.18 We will analyse the sustainability of the pension system, *inter alia*, will consider the introduction of a flexible retirement age and a more rapid increase in the base amount of pensions.

10.19 In order to improve the livelihoods of pensioners living alone, we will apply a support scheme beginning from 2017.

10.20 We will analyse the way the existing company pension scheme has been implemented, and will propose solutions to improve the system.

10.21 We will apply the parental pension as of 2018.

### *Social welfare*

10.22 We will improve the quality of the social welfare services by developing a common framework for the quality of the services that will guarantee uniform quality and availability of the services all over Estonia.

10.23 In cooperation with NGOs, we will develop for the young people in substitute homes the services that assist to start the independent life as well as other support services.

10.24 We will examine the demand for sign language interpreters, translators and for other forms of translation, and will create and, if necessary, will increase the extent of their training and of the services provided by them.

10.25 We will initiate a discussion regarding the arrangement of care and the fulfilment of maintenance obligation in relation to family members in need of care.

10.26 We will establish a national quality framework for social welfare institutions and will monitor the adherence.

### *Dental treatment*

10.27 We will continue to raise actively the awareness of people about oral health, and among other things, we will introduce measures to ensure that all children could visit the dentist for control at least once a year, and will create opportunities to encourage people to pay prophylactic dental visits in good time.

10.28 We will implement a program for dental treatment of the teeth of the adults.

10.29 We will allow the old age and disability pensioners to use the allowance granted to them for denture compensation, also for dental treatment during 3 years.

### *Prevention policy*

10.30 We will focus greater resources to prevention of diseases and addictions.

10.31 We will expand evidence-based cancer screening; early detection and prevention programs targeted at men's health risks, including bowel and prostate cancer prevention.

10.32 We will develop a comprehensive physical activities programme for Estonian schools, will change the physical education curriculum into a modern fitness curriculum, and will continue supporting the basic swimming training at schools.

10.33 We will support the physical activity of people with special needs.

10.34 We will favour the increase of public and private contributions for creating the health and sports facilities that would be the available free of charge for the community.

10.35 We will allow entering the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances faster to the list of forbidden narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

10.36 In order to avoid health hazards, we will consider imposing restrictions to the sale of energy drinks to children and young people under 18 years of age at children's and youth institutions.

10.37 We will continue the cardiovascular diseases prevention program and will increase the role of communities in health promotion.

10.38 We will expand the state measures for improving the mental health of children and young people by using more the *ad hoc* approach, and by joining the forces of the parents, school nurses, family doctors, school psychologists and the schools' specialists for children with special needs. For that purpose we will create a children's mental health services system, *inter alia*, will develop four regional centres and a new service for children with severe mental disorder.

### *Reduction of harm caused by alcohol and tobacco*

10.39 By 2030, we will aim to reduce alcohol and tobacco consumption by half compared to today's consumption in Estonia and make schools free of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

10.40 In order to make alcohol and tobacco less available, we will continue to raise excise taxes.

10.41 With the use of European Union Structural Funds, we will create and implement the counselling and treatment services for the prevention and early detection of alcohol abuse and dependence.

10.42 We will implement the principles established in the Green Paper on Alcohol Policy (e.g., we will allow providing only neutral information in alcohol advertisements, and will ban so-called lifestyle ads, etc.).

10.43 We will implement the principles established in the Green Paper on Tobacco Policy (e.g., we will limit the sale of tobacco products in retail shops).

### *The availability and quality of medical care*

10.44 We will support the establishment of networks of hospitals and will establish, supported by the European funds, new multi-functional family health centres.

10.45 We will regulate more clearly the doctor–patient relations.

10.46 We will analyse the additional funding opportunities for health care (including the creation of personal health accounts).

10.47 We will extend the role of family doctors and nurses, including in the issue of prescriptions, as well as their liability for regular monitoring and treatment of the patients belonging to risk groups and chronically ill patients.

10.48 We will increase the number of orders for training the nurses and pharmacists.

10.49 We will support the medicine-related research and development, and the exports of the Estonian health services.

10.50 We will take direction to personal medicine, *inter alia*, we will prepare preventive smart applications, will create a registry of cancer screening, an e-vaccination passport and the opportunity to observe the personal health costs in the Patient Portal.

10.51 We will improve the quality assessment of health care, in order to ensure a thorough analysis of medical errors.

10.52 We will support the capable and strong patient representative associations as partners of the state.

10.53 We will improve the availability of rehabilitation and treatment in nursing hospitals.

10.54 We will analyse the possibilities of pharmacies to provide healthcare services and their better connections with the primary health care system.

10.55 We will make the information leaflets of medicines sold in Estonia available to consumers also in the most used foreign languages in Estonia.

10.56 We will consider increasing the patients' freedom of choice of doctor and medical services throughout Estonia, and we will carry out a project for the patients' free movement within the framework of specific medical specialties.

### *E-services in health care*

10.57 We will develop the e-health systems to be more patient-friendly, the e-Registry of the Patient Portal among other things, will initiate an e-Clinic pilot project, and will put into operation the e-Consultation, the e-Referral Note and the e-Ambulance Card.

10.58 We will support telemedicine solutions. In connection with the development of the Patient Portal, we will promote the development of mobile solutions enabling patients to monitor their own health.

## **11. LEGAL ORDER**

### *Priorities*

11 We will ensure legal security and continue organising and simplifying the legal system.

11.1 To increase transparency, we will develop information systems, which will ensure the continued availability of legal acts, court orders and general national registers.

11.2 We will build on the developments of criminal policy approved in the Riigikogu and prioritise the following activities and tools:

11.3.1 for fighting against crime related to and targeted at minors, mainly sexual offences,

- 11.3.2 for fighting against organised crime and serious hidden crime, including corruption, drug-related crime, economic crime involving major damage and human trafficking,
- 11.3.3 for detecting and preventing domestic violence, primarily repeated violence.

#### *Justice policies*

- 11.4 We will establish that an analysis be added to all important drafts to be discussed in the Riigikogu regarding the environmental, regional and social (including gender equality) impact of the amendments.
- 11.5 We will implement the system for ex-post evaluation of the impacts of legal acts.
- 11.6 We will harmonise and organise the legal regulation of persons in public law.
- 11.7 We will make bankruptcy and execution proceedings faster, enabling bailiffs access to registers necessary for execution proceedings and updating the regulation related to prohibitions on business/bankrupts. We will improve cross-border enforcement proceedings.
- 11.8 We will improve state enforcement measures for evaders of child maintenance payment and make support claims valid until debts are paid.
- 11.9 We will implement an anti-corruption strategy and continue following international recommendations in fighting against corruption.
- 11.10 We will update copyright protection taking into account the wide spread of digital media and pay more attention to fighting software and online piracy.
- 11.11 We will regulate private investigation services by legislative means with the objective of protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons.
- 11.12 We will consider creating a positive credit register in cooperation with the private sector.
- 11.13 We will strengthen and expand legal protection of people in need (e.g. [www.juristaitab.ee](http://www.juristaitab.ee) website) and facilitate access to quality state legal aid. We will review the grounds for state legal aid, to allow legal aid to the weaker members of society when needed.
- 11.14 We will promote the legal and financial literacy of people and protection against irresponsible borrowing.
- 11.15 We will improve the capability of the police for fighting against and detecting offences in cyber-space, developing inter alia the work of web constables.

#### *Penal policy and criminal proceedings*

- 11.16 We will make the processing of offences (including criminal proceedings) more flexible and easier, ensuring proceedings in the least burdensome way to a person and taking into account the gravity and consequences of the offense. For this purpose, we will update the Code of Criminal Procedure. We will enhance the work organisation of the police and the prosecutor's office for accelerating criminal proceedings.
- 11.17 We will accelerate pre-litigation procedures and increase the quality of public prosecution, thus increasing the capability of the prosecutor's office.
- 11.18 We will update the civilian control system of security authorities and prosecutor's office to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons as well as to minimise the risk of corruption and abuse. For this purpose we will analyse the rights and capabilities of the Chancellor of Justice as well as of the committees of the Riigikogu.
- 11.19 We will analyse and expand the establishing of implementing ancillary restrictions on the perpetrator of serious crimes (e.g. paedophiles and other sex offenders and drug offenders shall not be allowed to change their name, the disclosure of data of paedophiles refusing treatment, etc.).
- 11.20 We will define hate crimes in accordance with international and EU requirements and initiate an information campaign on refraining from and understanding hate crimes.

11.21 We will enhance the confiscating of criminal assets and other proceeds of crime mainly regarding persons sentenced for organised and serious financial crimes and corruption.

11.22 We will improve the fight against corruption in the private sector by creating an administrative procedure regulation.

11.23 We will consider the possibility of establishing the dependency of the size of a fine for misdemeanour on the size of the income, financial situation and number of dependants of the person having committed the misdemeanour.

11.24 We will build a new Tallinn Prison in Rae Parish.

11.25 We will ratify the international convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. We will ensure professional help for victims of an offence against the person through support networks.

11.26 We will increase the protection of victims of human trafficking, including prohibiting buying sexual services from human trafficking victims.

#### *Judicial proceedings and the acceleration thereof*

11.27 We will continue developing the judiciary system, including developing the independence of the judiciary by increasing the self-administration rights of courts and implementing more efficient justice.

11.28 To accelerate judicial proceedings, we will reduce the congestion of and the time and money spent on the judiciary system by eliminating unjustified obstacles in codes of procedure for fast processing of court cases and by expanding pre-trial and extrajudicial options for resolving legal disputes.

11.29 We will analyse the possibility of giving guardianship organisations and non-governmental organisations the right of protecting the rights of their target groups in court.

## **12. INTERNAL SECURITY**

### *Strengthening the state border*

12.1 We will strengthen the Estonian state border and request using European Structural Funds for developing border protection capabilities.

12.2 To better control and protect marine waters, we will obtain new multifunctional water capable of carrying out border guard, maritime rescue as well as pollution response activities and are ready of performing national defence tasks.

12.3 We will support the strengthening of the European Union border guard agency FRONTEX to cope with the growing immigration pressure, we will also support the implementing of the European Union entry/exit system and implementing border control information systems on the external borders of the EU, enabling better control over immigrants and persons crossing the external border of the EU.

12.4 We will strengthen the coordination capability of the border guard in the Ministry of the Interior. We will analyse the tasks and the training organisation of the border guard in the changed security situation.

12.5 We will create rapid reaction units of the border guard.

### *Developing the capacity of the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board*

12.6 We will reduce duplication between the Police and Border Guard Board, the Estonian Rescue Board and the departments of the ministries. We will unite national

situation surveillance and analysing capabilities. We will release the police from performing tasks not in their jurisdiction.

12.7 We will double the number of police officers with rapid reaction capabilities and develop the cooperation of the police with the responsible structures of the Estonian Defence Forces and the Defence League.

12.8 We will improve the supply of the rescue service and the police as well as significantly update the fleet of rescue vehicles and police cars. The state shall give most of the replaceable rescue vehicles to volunteers.

12.9 We will strengthen the maritime rescue capabilities of rescue units, including volunteer units.

12.10 We will implement a new e-police system, simplifying the work of the police outdoors and reduces the time spent on proceedings. We will continue implementing the digital file.

12.11 We will continue improving the working conditions of police and rescue service employees by building new or renovating existing buildings.

12.12 We will complete the Rescue Board reform to ensure that all rescue service calls – the police and ambulance are always coordinated from one specific place and thus ensuring that the requested help arrives faster.

12.13 We will develop the capability of the police in preventing cybercrime.

12.14 We will increase the presence of regional police force, giving priority to working ranges near the eastern border.

#### *Training of internal security employees*

12.15 We will analyse the expediency of extending the training of police officers.

12.16 We will support internal security pre-vocational training in upper secondary schools. We will support the border guard pre-training in upper secondary schools in border counties.

12.17 We will develop a new development vision and the relating action plan of the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences and decide on the future location of the latter.

#### *Involvement of volunteers*

12.18 We will value motivated volunteers and ensure the stable funding growth for rescue volunteers on land and in water as well as for neighbourhood watch and assistant police officers.

12.19 We will support volunteer umbrella organisations and training volunteer rescuers in order to increase their life saving and special skills.

12.20 We will include more social partners in prevention activities in order to raise the safety awareness of the society. We will ensure remuneration for personal damages incurred during volunteering activities.

#### *Increasing the capability of security authorities*

12.21 We will modernise the legislation regulating the activities of security authorities as well as update the civilian control system of security authorities in order to minimise the risk of corruption and abuse.

12.22 Resulting from the changed security situation, we will increase the intelligence capability of the Information Board and the Defence Forces as well as the counter-intelligence capability of the Estonian Internal Security Service, and the capability of the Central Criminal Police of preventing serious crime.

## 13. EDUCATION AND SCIENCE POLICY

13.1 We will ensure that the share of education in public expenditure remains between 6–7 % of the GDP and that the share of education expenditure does not decrease in the state budget.

13.2 We will value the cooperation between different areas in organising the education system.

13.3 We consider it most important to move towards a new concept of learning, which places more emphasis on the development of key competences and problem solving skills in all levels of education and on introducing the lifelong learning principle. Education and research must also be more linked to the general development and challenges of Estonia.

13.4 We build on the “Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020” and ensure the activity-based funding of programmes from the state budget. We will contribute to the wider use of lifelong learning opportunities in order to allow elderly persons to requalify and participate in the working life.

13.5 We will change the “Huvitav Kool” (interesting school) initiative into a comprehensive and broad-based school renewal movement that would include different interest groups of society.

13.6 We will change the general emphasis in the division of resources, mainly by increasing expenditure in order to increase the wage level of all education and research employees as well as by optimising the level of economic expenses.

13.7 We will review and simplify national regulations for using EU funds, including consider reorganising and rationalising national surveillance (decreasing bureaucracy).

13.8 We will support the cooperation and integration of research organisations and universities.

### *Teachers*

13.9 We will increase the teachers’ rights in shaping the teaching and learning process, mainly by integration of subjects and implementing e-learning.

13.10 We will ensure the greater responsibility of school leaders for the effectiveness of the teaching process and the general state of schools. We will implement the regular evaluation system for school leaders.

13.11 We will support shaping a school culture that values teachers and classroom management.

13.12 We will promote the implementing of formative assessment and the integration of subjects.

13.13 We will support the developing of teacher education centres of excellence via inclusion of international competence. We will also promote the acquiring of pedagogical competence among people of other professions.

13.14 We will increase the funding of continuing training courses via EU Structural Funds.

13.15 We will support the retraining and continuing training courses for teachers with the objective of ensuring the timeliness of the teaching and learning process (formative assessment, integration of subjects, implementation of constantly evolving digital technology, developing e-learning, etc.).

13.16 We will provide assistant teacher traineeship positions in nursery schools and schools for students studying to become teachers.

### *Pre-school education*

- 13.17 We will develop, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Social Affairs and interest groups, and implement a comprehensive childcare and early childhood education concept.
- 13.18 We will initiate a discussion on making the pre-school year mandatory.
- 13.19 We will eliminate excessive bureaucratic requirements for childcare and nursery schools.
- 13.20 We will promote the childcare possibilities provided by the private sector.
- 13.21 We will ensure aid for investments in increasing the safety of nursery schools and playgrounds as well as improving the conditions of childcare with the help of EU support funds.
- 13.22 We consider it possible to implement sanctions if the local government has failed to ensure a place in the nursery school or day care.
- 13.23 We will ensure children with special needs the opportunity of attending nursery schools and harmonise early intervention goals in early childhood and basic education.
- 13.24 We will improve childcare options for the children of specialists coming to work to Estonia.
- 13.25 We will support the implementing of different teaching methods in pre-school nursery institutions by organising continuing training courses.
- 13.26 We will make Estonian educational institutions bullying free – we will support the implementing of evidence based anti-bullying measures in nursery, basic and upper secondary schools.

#### *General education*

- 13.27 We will decrease the number of leavers from education by improving support systems and consider extending the compulsory schooling until the acquiring of a profession but no longer than until reaching 18 years of age.
- 13.28 We will ensure, in coordination with school network restructuring, public transportation in accordance with the students' needs.
- 13.29 We will ensure transportation and student housing for students of state upper secondary schools and vocational schools.
- 13.30 We will develop the technology neutral environment "Hariduspilv" (Education Cloud) for using digital education.
- 13.31 We will pay attention to providing IT related continuing education to primary school teachers to allow the developing of algorithmic thinking in primary schools.
- 13.32 We will decrease the number of compulsory subjects in the upper secondary school level from 96 to 75 and increase options to allow schools to teach subjects in a more flexible and enhanced way according to the preferences of students, and educating their students to make choices, plan time and take responsibility for their own studies.
- 13.33 We will expand the options of e-learning in all upper secondary schools by creating the national "e-gümnaasium" online learning environment support system. We will support the availability of quality e-learning materials in the educational system and provide the assistance of education technologist to schools in implementing digital learning.
- 13.34 We consider it important to promote financial literacy, entrepreneurship and programming studies, robotics and national defence studies in all Estonian schools.
- 13.35 We will ensure the good acquisition and quality teaching of the Estonian language, will increase state support and demand for the actual acquisition of language as well as increase the responsibility of schools and school managers in achieving this objective.
- 13.36 We will consider giving school employees more rights for increasing school safety.
- 13.37 We will develop, in cooperation with citizens' associations, the "Inclusive School Culture" model, allowing schools to become an important centre of community life.

13.38 We will make national surveillance substantive and ensure a high level of basic education in all basic schools in cooperation with local governments, and avoiding educational stratification as well as valuing the concept of attending a basic school near one's home.

13.39 We will continue developing state upper secondary schools, paying attention to the quality of the teaching and learning process as well as increasing demand in all upper secondary schools, including upon enrolment.

13.40 We will adjust the concept of inclusive education building on modern international principles. Children with special educational needs will be ensured suitable places in home schools, in cooperation with local schools or, if necessary, in special schools, which are a part of a common system, and where the inclusion of all children in society is a priority.

13.41 We will continue to support the development of IB studies in Estonia.

13.42 We will promote modern physical activity studies in addition to traditional physical education in all levels of education and its integration with other subjects; we will also enable linking the curriculum with the student's actual sporting activities.

13.43 We will continue to support the basic swimming training programme in schools to ensure basic swimming skills for all basic school graduates.

### *Vocational education*

13.44 We will target all vocational and higher education programmes at the competencies of the employment market by increasing the share of traineeship in curriculums. We will integrate a work-based form of study into vocational education ("apprenticeship education") in order to better link vocational education and the practical professional life, the main input of creating the curriculum of which comes from employers and is additionally funded by EU instruments.

13.45 We will support targeted study programmes for continuing education and retraining for people aged 55 and over.

13.46 We will aim at the creating of a system of private sector scholarships for people in vocational education.

13.47 We will expand the specialties taught on the basis of basic school.

13.48 We will intensify the cooperation between upper secondary schools and vocational education institutions in order to increase their opportunities of providing options to students.

13.49 We will prioritise the smooth transition of young people with disabilities from the general education system into vocational education and into the employment market after finishing their education. For this purpose, we will begin developing flexible implementation options, including combined social work and various forms of social entrepreneurship.

13.50 We will analyse the need for and feasibility of creating a network of centres of education and excellence.

13.51 We will modernise the vocational education funding system, building on curriculum-based funding.

13.52 We will promote the adult retraining of people aged 35 and over in the higher and vocational education system. We will create additional opportunities for the acquisition of a second professional education in universities in the form of part-time study while working.

### *Higher education*

13.53 We will value the inclusion of private funding in higher education.

13.54 We will strengthen the link between the educational areas of responsibility of universities and the research areas to be developed by them.

13.55 We will support the internationalisation of universities and the increasing of the share of foreign lecturers as well as foreign students.

13.56 We will pay more attention to the quality of teaching, including the employment market feedback in funding institutions of higher education.

13.57 We will promote professional traineeships of higher education institutions and vocational schools and support employers by partial reimbursement of expenses related to the traineeship.

13.58 We consider the clearer specialisation of educational institutions providing higher education to be necessary.

13.59 We will integrate the qualification requirements of the employment market and the study outputs of the educational system curricula, and ensure the necessary sectoral cooperation by relying on sector skills councils to be formed.

13.60 We will support the national sciences programme in Estonian universities.

### *Research policies*

13.61 We will create additional motivators for including private capital in the funding of research and development activities, taking into account the best experience of European countries; we will **aim** at reaching 3% of the GPD (including aiming at private sector funding reaching 2% of the GPD) in the funding of research and development activities.

13.62 We will increase the stability of research funding by increasing the core funding of research institutions with the objective of achieving an equal level of core financed and competition-based research funding.

13.63 We will additionally support the cooperation between research institutions and undertakings, including increasing the impact of the share of enterprise agreements in base funding.

13.64 We will increase the funding of industrial research for supporting smart economic specialisation and innovation.

13.65 We will strengthen the international cooperation and work division of universities.

13.66 We will encourage the participation of public sector and state-owned undertakings in implementing and developing Estonian innovative technology, serving as a training ground for pilot projects.

13.67 We will strengthen the role of the state in the strategic targeting of research, including establishing priorities and targeting research at solving the challenges of society. We will consider strengthening the role of the Research and Development Council by including different stakeholders.

13.68 We will strengthen the competence of ministries and other public authorities for ordering industrial research and using the latter for solving socio-economic problems.

### *Hobby education*

13.69 We will provide national support to hobby education initiatives related to the promotion of research and technology.

### *Estonian language learning*

13.70 We will improve the teaching of the Estonian language in nursery schools, basic schools and secondary upper schools based on the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report of the working group of the Ministry of Education and Research. We will prioritise the acquisition of the Estonian language as the language of communication. We will concretise the obligations and responsibility of the state and school managers.

## **14. CULTURE AND SPORT**

14.1 We will build our activities on “The general principles of cultural policy until 2020” and “The general principles of the Estonian sports policy until 2030”, and implement them in cooperation with relevant institutions, associations and organisations.

14.2 We will manage the sports and education policies based activities of the Coalition government in conjunction, including in making financing decisions. We will regard Estonian creative and memory institutions as players in the educational process. We will encourage the participation of children and young people in cultural life. We will support the collection, conservation and making available of intangible cultural property via the state’s central memory institutions, including via Estonian Public Broadcasting.

14.3 We will show the state’s interest in bringing international cultural festivals, sports conferences, title competitions and other big events to Estonia.

14.4 We will develop the accessibility of people with special needs to the living and cultural environment. People with special needs have the right to participate in cultural, sports and social life. Young people with disabilities must have an opportunity of participating in hobby education and youth work.

14.5 The basic principles of cultural endowment i.e. the formulation of the budget in accordance with the provisions established by law, and independent endowments and expert groups comprising of area experts shall not be amended. The cultural endowment mainly supports creative persons and project-based initiatives, and the budget of the Ministry of Culture is used to fund the main activities of public authorities as well as long-term activities significant from the aspect of national culture.

14.6 We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, inviting all people and friends of Estonia from all over the world.

#### *Music*

14.7 We will support activities targeted at acquiring valuable musical instruments and establishing a fund for musical instruments, the objective of which is acquiring, managing and rental of musical instruments to musicians.

14.8 We will shape the concept of comprehensive musical education in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research, which will integrate the activities of state, private and municipal music schools (hobby schools) as well as of universities offering musical studies into a logical comprehensive system.

#### *Art*

14.9 We will support the creation of artist residencies and the initiation of residency programmes.

14.10 We will continue supporting the developing and managing of the infrastructure for organising art exhibitions, the internationalisation of exhibition institutions and supporting professional exhibition activities with the help of the Art galleries programme.

#### *Architecture and design*

14.11 We will achieve legal clarity regarding spatial planning and the restrictions thereof. We will support the reasonable cooperation between public authorities, local governments and AS Riigi Kinnisvara, which would allow modern Estonian architecture to make public space more interesting and people-oriented.

14.12 We consider it necessary to group the spatial planning competence on a national level.

14.13 We will analyse the strengthening of the architecture and design area in cooperation with professionals. We see the area of design and architecture as a significant source for creating added value in the national industry and as a developer of a modern living environment.

14.14 We will contribute to raising the quality of design education.

#### *Literature and publishing*

14.15 We will increase the availability of e-books via the National Library of Estonia.

14.16 We will further develop the functioning support system for publishing Estonian literature in foreign languages.

14.17 We will support the participation of Estonia in the 2018 London book fair as one of the main guests.

14.18 We will support activities targeted at fostering children's reading habits.

14.19 We will continue providing national support to national libraries in acquiring holdings.

#### *Performing arts*

14.20 We will support ordering original dramaturgy and bringing it to the stage.

14.21 We consider the functioning of private performing arts institutions also important in addition to state or co-owned performing arts institutions and we will ensure that funding models also consider newcomers.

#### *Museum and protection of cultural property*

14.22 We will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the song celebration movement with the Song Festival in 2019. We will value the important impact of the song and dance celebration movement in society. We will support the activities of the Estonian Song and Dance Celebration Foundation in a way that supports the good organising of events as well as the activities of collectives and the development of their artistic level on a daily basis as well as during the period between celebrations. In cooperation with the city of Tallinn we will update the environment in which the celebrations will be held.

14.23 We will open the new building of the Estonian National Museum in 2016.

14.24 We will continue organising the network of museums and digitising museum objects in order to increase the access to museum collections in a friendly manner.

14.25 We will support the funding of sacred sites from the national budget with the objective of marking and cleaning up sacred groves and other sacred sites in accordance with the 2015 development plan “Sacred Natural Sites. Research and preservation”.

14.26 We will review the criteria for awarding the title of a national heritage site as well as the options of excluding sites from protection.

14.27 We will organise Estonia’s joining of the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society.

#### *Audiovisual*

14.28 We will provide more effective support to Estonian cinematography and the screening of Estonian valued films across Estonia.

14.29 We will achieve the recognising of the cinematography and audiovisual industry as an innovative area of the creative industry with great export potential and implement respective mechanisms that support entrepreneurship.

14.30 We will support the developing of international cooperation and joint entrepreneurship in cinematography, including by introducing Estonia as an attractive environment for film production in foreign countries.

14.31 We will support the launching of the Russian ETV channel and ensure the sustainable financing thereof. We will also support activities targeted at the production of television shows and webpages in minority languages.

14.32 We will continue digitising the audiovisual and film heritage (including the archive and film heritage of Estonian Public Broadcasting) and, if possible, make the results available for free use.

14.33 We will support local high culture (music, theatre, film, animation, modern arts and dance) reaching a broader public through public media.

#### *Introducing Estonian culture abroad*

14.34 We will support the exporting of our domestic culture.

14.35 In addition to exporting works of art, we will pay more attention to the mobility of creative persons (Estonian directors, dance groups, artists and writers) and their opportunities of working abroad.

#### *Creative industry, incomes and social guarantees of artists*

14.36 We will keep the creative industry among areas of economy with national priority with the objective of helping starting and active creative entrepreneurs in realising their visions.

14.37 We will support area-specific centres of excellence and development for increasing their production, marketing and export capabilities.

14.38 We will continue improving the social security system for freelance creative persons.

#### *Cultural diversity*

14.39 We will continue providing state support to support programs of local cultural areas.

14.40 We will promote tribal movements and support Finno-Ugric languages and culture wherever possible.

14.41 We will support the cultural activities of national minorities living in Estonia as well as support the cooperation between communities and promote communication.

#### *Sports*

14.42 Building on the objectives established in “The general principles of the Estonian sports policy until 2030”, we will support the development plan of sports for 2015–2019 with financial resources.

14.43 We will support the proliferation of fitness in all age groups and especially ensure that children and young people are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle and exercise regularly. Regular exercising must be a growing trend among the Estonian population.

14.44 We will ensure state budget support for the development of sports medicine and for the regular medical examinations of young athletes as well as ensure that schools monitor the development of the students’ physical capabilities.

14.45 We will stand for fair play in sports. To detect and prevent the use of prohibited substances in professional sports and to promote doping-free sports, we will develop cooperation with WADA and other international organisations, support relevant structures in Estonia and maintain the respective judicial area up to date.

14.46 We will promote modern physical activity studies in addition to traditional physical education in all levels of education and its integration with other subjects; we will also enable linking the curriculum with the student’s actual sporting activities.

14.47 We will continue to support the basic swimming training programme in schools to ensure basic swimming skills for all basic school graduates.

14.48 We will establish clearer rules for funding sports associations from the state budget and from state-owned undertakings.

14.49 We will seek, in cooperation with the private sector and local governments, options for improving the sporting conditions and sports inventory of schools.

#### *Culture and sports investments*

14.50 We will build the building of the Estonian Academy of Arts (Ministry of Education and Research).

14.51 We will continue the restructuring and technical updating of the buildings of Estonian Public Broadcasting and the digitising of its archives.

14.52 We will finish, with the help of the cultural endowment, the construction of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre building by constructing a performance hall necessary for study activities (Ministry of Education and Research).

14.53 We will support the building of the new building of the Arvo Pärt Centre.

14.54 We will finish the renewing of historical theatre houses and supply the latter with the most modern stage, sound and light equipment.

14.55 We will support the developing of the Ilon Wikland centre in Haapsalu.

14.56 We will support the establishing of the Narva Theatre house based on the open space concept.

14.57 We will finish establishing the Maarjamäe complex of the Estonian History Museum and its permanent exhibition by 2018.

14.58 We will support fitness and the larger accessibility of state funded sports facilities to users of different ages.

14.59 We will develop the sports centre of the Tehvandi Sport Centre Foundation (including the Kääriku Sports Centre) as a development centre for elite sports with high-level competition and training facilities.

14.60 We will aim at establishing the School of Fine Arts.

#### *Legislation and support in the areas of culture and sports*

14.61 We will improve the judicial area to improve the participation of undertakings in the funding of culture and sports (as well as including state-owned and public undertakings in supporting sports and professional culture with a specific percentage of their profit on the basis of transparent and common rules).

14.62 We will support the inclusion of private capital into the area of culture by recognising culture-friendly entrepreneurs and private persons as well as by promoting initiatives carried out in cooperation between the state and private corporations.

14.63 We will ensure continuing state funding to all foundations established with state participation and municipal cultural institutions co-financed by the state (museums, theatres, etc.) in the cultural sphere.

14.64 We will update the Copyright Act in order to ensure that the freedom of creation and the rights of authors are in accordance with the developments of modern technology, would promote the conservation and accessibility of Estonian culture in digital form, and would

efficiently protect the rights of Estonian authors and performers regarding their work and the income opportunities for their creative work.

14.65 We will analyse the option for simplifying the process of supporting culture from the state budget.

## **15. ESTONIAN LANGUAGE AND ESTONIANISM**

15.1 The prevailing and development of the Estonian language is a constitutional value. We will support activities that contribute to the promoting and popularisation of the Estonian language in Estonia as well as abroad. We will build our activities on the fact that Estonian is the official language.

15.2 The Government coalition will not waive the principle of the state, according to which only acts in Estonian own legal power. Translations of legal acts may only be informal.

### *Promoting the Estonian language*

15.3 In 2019, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our official language.

15.4 We will develop online environments for people with a different native language who wish to learn Estonian.

15.5 We consider Estonian subtitling of Estonian Public Broadcasting television channels to be an important issue.

15.6 We will support the using and developing of regional languages and dialects. We will support the compiling and publishing of dictionaries of regional dialects.

15.7 We will support the principle that all PhD theses written in a foreign language must include an Estonian summary in the size of a research article.

15.8 We will continue compiling higher education schoolbooks in Estonian and translating schoolbooks from foreign languages.

15.9 We will support activities that enable the Estonian language to serve as a computer language equivalent to other evolved languages. We will support the creating and developing of single and multilingual dictionaries and translation aid technologies.

15.10 In addition to language technology, we will develop traditional branches of linguistics, which intensify and strengthen our national awareness.

15.11 We will prepare and introduce a new “Development plan of the Estonian language”.

15.12 We will support the clear language movement and the compilation of multilingual online dictionaries (including academic dictionaries).

15.13 We will use EU funds to launch the programme for teaching Estonian language for adults.

15.14 We will support the continuing and development of the Estonia language by sufficient funding of language technologies (voice detection, etc.) as well as by ensuring the wider use of Estonian computer programmes. We will continue digitising records and archives of national culture.

### *Estonians in the world*

15.15 We will start a tradition according to which, on 24 February, the Government of the Republic of Estonia will turn to Estonians living abroad.

15.16 We will analyse the Family Act, focusing on situations in which one parent is a citizen of a foreign country.

## *Memory and national symbolism*

15.17 We will better regulate the rights and obligations of the parties in conserving cultural properties and regarding the activities of memory institutions.

15.18 We will continue to stand for recognising Communism as a crime ideology on an international level.

15.19 We will value the national and international awareness raising regarding the history of Estonia by including third sector memory institutions.

15.20 We consider it important to research Holocaust and Communism crimes and crimes against humanity as well as to identify individuals guilty for genocide.

15.21 We will continue raising the awareness of schools students regarding the anti-human nature of Holocaust, Nazism and Communism in order to develop ethical understanding and values.

15.22 We will continue our activities in commemorating the victims of totalitarianism.

15.23 We will support the creation of flag squares in all major settlements.

## **16. CITIZENSHIP POLICIES**

16.1 We will seek options to implement a principle in legislation, according to which a person who has received his or her nationality at birth will not be forced to choose between two nationalities.

16.2 We will ensure that Estonian language courses necessary for preparing for the citizenship test are free of charge.

## **17. INTEGRATION AND ESTONIAN LANGUAGE BASED EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS WITH RUSSIAN AS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

17.1 We will ensure a bigger freedom of choice for schools in integration Estonian language and subject learning.

17.2 We will support the developing of the innovative Estonia language teaching model for schools with Russian as the language of instruction along with issuing study materials based on modern information technology.

17.3 We will ensure the availability of free of charge Estonian language courses in order to ensure compliance with language requirements imposed by the state.

17.4 We will support the in-depth teaching of Russian language and culture as an optional subject in schools with Estonian as the language of instruction, to encourage native Russian-speaking parents to choose to send their children to schools with Estonian as the language of instruction.

17.5 We will consider reorganising the Language Inspectorate as an agency that coordinates the implementing of the language policy, enhances the organisation of national language learning and carries out the supervision regarding the execution of the Language Act.

17.6 We will improve the legal awareness of all Estonian residents as well as their access to legal acts. For this purpose, we will continue ensuring the free of charge electronic access to the most significant acts of the Republic of Estonia and increasing the availability of free of charge legal aid in native languages most common in Estonia.

17.7 We will continue promoting public service career opportunities for professionals with a native language different from Estonian.

## **18. ENVIRONMENT**

### *Natural environment*

18.1 We will invest into improving the state of Estonian bodies of water from environmental charges in order to clean lakes and rivers and make the most significant Estonian rivers accessible to fish.

18.2 We will resolve the Tallinn coastal air having been a problem for decades and invest in the water management solution, which will also ensure clean air in the areas of Pirita and Merivälja throughout the year.

18.3 We will contribute to cleaning up the Baltic Sea by improving the quality of water bodies.

18.4 We will increase the pollution response capabilities with the help of EU funds and the Environmental Investment Centre, and specify the depollution obligations of the state and local governments.

18.5 To ensure maintaining the health and vitality of Estonian forests, we will mainly, in renewing the forest, support planting forest transplants genetically suitable for Estonian conditions. We will maintain the quality of Estonian groundwater resources.

18.6 We will initiate a special programme for recovering peat lands.

18.7 We will prefer, wherever possible, environmentally sustainable solutions and technologies in public procurement.

18.8 We will use, wherever possible, resources from the Estonian Rural Development Plan to support private owners who contribute to protecting unique or endangered natural values. We will, building on the principle of equal treatment, analyse the organisation of compensating nature conservation restrictions on the sites of the Natura 2000 network and private lands outside the sites.

18.9 We will review the policy for the protection of animals and traditional biodiversity (including considering restricting the farming of alien species).

### *Natural resources*

18.10 We will develop the long-term strategy for using Estonian non-renewable mineral resources and create effective geological capabilities for implementing the strategy. We consider it important to carry out the best scientific level research of all natural resources of the Republic of Estonia. In the framework of the strategy, we will map Estonian natural resources and carry out possible extraction analyses as well as find a balance between the economic and environmental protection interests of the state.

18.11 We will create the opportunity and capability for issuing permits of use on auctions. The natural resource charge must cover the expenses regarding the research, evaluation and giving permission for use and include the price of the non-renewable natural resource. Environmental charges imposed for the extraction and using of resources must reflect the compensation for damages to the environment.

18.12 We will ensure that no Estonian groundwater resources will irreversibly be damaged in the course of researching and using natural resources.

18.13 We will target the most effective and additional value creating use of Estonia natural resources by using environmental charges. We will maintain the principle, according to which environmental charges are established for as long a period as possible.

18.14 We will aim at ensuring that no municipal waste is stored in landfills.

18.15 We will achieve the recycling rate required in the European Union. The offering of waste recovery and final handling services to homeowners must be carried out via open competition. We consider it important to maintain an affordable waste collection service in rural areas, maintaining the existing systems in smaller local governments if necessary, and ensuring waste management funding for local government. We will aim at ensuring the lower price of the disposal of sorted and separately collected municipal waste compared to unsorted waste disposal.

18.16 We will encourage the using of long-lived timber products (for example, constructing public sector buildings using timber).

18.17 We will keep Estonian indigenous state-owned forests in the ownership of the state and ensure the sustainable and prudent management of the state forest.

18.18 We will create simple and transparent small-forest owner regulations for the purpose of forest management, support the activities of forestry associations and include land owners in all processes regarding their property as early in the planning phase as possible.

18.19 Each resident must have access to quality, clean and affordable drinking water. We will continue establishing and renovating wastewater treatment devices in cities and towns.

18.20 We will consider state optimising of the Vaivara hazardous waste landfill to ensure the continuous operating and necessary surveillance of the landfill.

18.21 We will increase the existence of hunting expertise in the Ministry of the Environment and begin compiling the Hunting Development Plan.

18.22 We will preserve two state-owned hunting areas, serving as a basis for training courses and studies evaluation the dynamics of game populations.

18.23 We will ensure an environment preserving and investment facilitating tax environment upon using natural resources. We will develop, in cooperation with industry and environmental organisations, a model that bases the calculation of the natural resource charge for the oil shale used for the production of oil on the world market price of oil.

18.24 To avoid a situation in which mined land is left unrehabilitated, we will, similarly to the regulation regarding the closing of landfills, obligate mining undertakings to submit a confirmation regarding the existence of an insurance contract or financial security with the objective of ensuring the mining undertaking's fulfilment of the obligation of rehabilitating mines or quarries.

### *Local communities*

18.25 We will finish, in cooperation with local communities directly affected by the status and legal regime of the specific protected area, the updating of protection rules of all Estonian nature reserves and will consider the practicability and justification of the protection regime.

18.26 We will support the resource conserving investments of undertakings with 50 million euros within the next five years.

18.27 We will invest into Estonian national parks and shape them into nationally and internationally known conservation centres.

18.28 With the use of environmental charges, we will create an investment programme aimed at making urban environments more environmentally friendly (e.g., investments into parks, making lighting solutions more economical and modern as well as developing non-motorised traffic routes).

18.29 With the use of environmental charges, we will create a programme for compiling traffic plans in urban areas and supporting the construction of an area suitable for pedestrian and non-motorised traffic.

18.30 We will support the reasonable cooperation between public authorities, local governments and AS Riigi Kinnisvara, the objective of which is allowing modern Estonian architecture to make public space more interesting and people-oriented.

18.31 We will develop additional principles for rectifying environmental disturbances, which serve as a basis for compensating for the negative impact on wildlife deriving from the establishing of large national infrastructure projects funded by nation-wide investments.

#### *Environmental education*

18.32 We will modernise the development and action plan of environmental education.

18.33 We will support the partnership between the state, undertakings and universities in developing green economy policies targeted at reducing materials used for the production of goods, increasing options for the recovery of goods, using local materials and decreasing the environmental impact of production.

18.34 We will aim at making Estonia a state with one of the most comprehensive hiking route networks in Europe along with the respective infrastructure enabling interactive learning.

18.35 We will grant nursery schools and schools the use of a modern, interactive learning material repository on the topic of Estonian nature.

18.36 We will map historical Estonian sacred sites and ensure the conservation of sacred groves for future generations.

## **19. RURAL LIFE**

#### *Management restructuring*

19.1 We will consider establishing a company under the Estonian Rural Development Foundation in order to diversify the funding options of undertakings active in the sectors of agriculture and fishery.

#### *Entrepreneurship and life in rural areas, supporting local initiatives*

19.2 We will implement the rural diversification measure to promote rural entrepreneurship, which maintains or creates new jobs with a competitive salary.

19.3 We will promote the joint activities of the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors from all perspectives in order to achieve a better position in the supply chain.

#### *Supporting village movements and local communities*

19.4 We will join existing support activities into a comprehensive “Noored maale” programme.

19.5 We will value and support local initiative programmes and life-promoting movements (including Leader, Estonian Village Movement Kodukant and the National Foundation of Civil Society).

## **20. AGRICULTURE**

The position of the Government coalition is that the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union must continue to be common and be funded from a common budget to avoid excessive and competition distorting state aid. The promoting the Common Agricultural Policy must be based on policies that reduce bureaucracy. The equalisation of agricultural refunds and competition conditions in the European Union must continue. The Government coalition will not support the transition to the payment entitlements system.

*New export channels, adding value to agriculture products, promoting agricultural land*

20.1 We will support farmers and food business operators in finding new export channels and markets for diversifying risks on the current markets.

20.2 We will support the using of new technologies, product developments with a higher added value and the increased export orientation regarding value added products.

20.3 We will develop additions to legislation for the protection of fertile agricultural land.

*The more effective use of bioenergy resources*

20.4 We will develop the Estonian Bioeconomy Strategy until 2030 for the purpose of increasing the well-being of Estonian people and the more efficient and environmentally sustainable use of bioresources.

20.5 We will promote the using of biofuels based on local raw material as well as the using of low-value timber.

*Plant and animal breeding, establishing environmental requirements*

20.6 We will support the breeding of plants and breeds originating from and characteristic to Estonia.

20.7 We will analyse the impact of implementing environmental requirements on the economy, taking into account the competitive situation compared to other neighbouring countries of the European Union.

*Estonian food and requirements for small-scale food production*

20.8 We will value local food and Estonian food culture more than at present by implementing the plan for introducing and promoting Estonian food titled “Estonian food 2015–2020”.

20.9 We will support the development of environmentally friendly and ecologically organic production along with processing, marketing and developing export opportunities.

20.10 In addition to effective agriculture production with export capacity, we also consider it important to diversify agriculture, promote domestic horticulture and farming as well as promote direct marketing with short supply chains.

20.11 We will review the requirements established for the small-production and handling of food, to ensure that they are not stricter than EU requirements but, at the same time, ensure food safety and safety at work.

*Forestry, timber industry and supporting private forest owners*

20.12 We will enhance the active and sustainable managing of forests, the development and innovation of the timber industry as well as the wider use of timber.

20.13 We will support the using of local forest renewal material in carrying out forest

renewal activities in order to protect the gene pool of the forest.

20.14 We will establish a maximum mass restriction for logging trucks depending on the number of axles and rims with the objective of increasing the competitiveness of the forestry sector and improving the state of roads.

20.15 We will continue providing state support to forestry associations for private forest owners.

### *Fisheries*

20.16 We will support the developing of the Estonian fishing industry.

20.17 We consider it important to develop coastal and inland fisheries as well as to support of the activities of fisheries areas.

20.18 We will specify and simplify the procedures of granting permits necessary for developing aquaculture.

## **21. DEVELOPING CIVIL SOCIETY**

21.1 The Government coalition prioritises the comprehensive development of the civil society.

21.2 We will promote delegating public services to the civil society.

21.3 We will create a more favourable growing environment for social undertakings, including considering the possibilities for improving their access to start-up and development grants.

21.4 We will form a social innovation task force, working in the areas of public services, public procurement and social undertakings.

**Taavi Rõivas**  
Estonian Reform Party  
Chairman

**Sven Mikser**  
Estonian Social Democratic Party  
Chairman

**Urmas Reinsalu**  
Pro Patria and Res Publica Union  
Chairman

## DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION

### Division of positions in the Government of the Republic:

Estonian Reform Party: Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure, Minister of Public Administration, Minister of Education and Research, Minister of Rural Affairs.

Estonian Social Democratic Party: Minister of Defence, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Minister of Health and Labour, Minister of Culture.

Pro Patria and Res Publica Union: Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Minister of Social Protection, Minister of the Environment.

### Division of positions in the Board and Committees of the Riigikogu:

Estonian Reform Party: Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee, Chairman of the Constitutional Committee, Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee, Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee.

Estonian Social Democratic Party: President of the Riigikogu, Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman of the Environment Committee, Chairman of the Rural Affairs Committee.

Pro Patria and Res Publica Union: First Vice-President of the Riigikogu, Chairman of the National Defence Committee, Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee, Chairman of the Security Authorities Surveillance Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Select Anti-Corruption Committee, Vice-Chairman of the State Budget Control Select Committee.

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**GOVERNMENT COALITION RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Building on the principle of joint action, the Government coalition will:

- coordinate political activities and the developing of policies between the partners of the Government coalition;
- coordinate the submission of drafts and initiatives; The initiation of the latter is based on the principle that all parties to the Government coalition agree consensually.

The Government coalition builds on the principles of good legislation in processing drafts and includes relevant interest groups in the planning and implementing of the policies of the Government coalition.

For coordinating and planning joint activities, the Presidency of the Government that meets during each working week of the Riigikogu, will:

- coordinate the implementing of policies in the Riigikogu and the Government coalition;
- discuss and resolve disputes regarding policies or other issues on the basis of consensus within the framework of the political competence of the Government coalition;
- assesses and ensures the implementing of the policies of the Government coalition;
- periodically organise the convening of the General Assembly of the Government coalition.

The members of the Presidency of the Government coalition are established by each party based on the principle that the political party is represented by a chairman and up to three members established by the political party.

For discussing area-specific policies of the Government coalition and other relevant issues, the General Assembly of the Government coalition meets at least quarterly, the preparation for which (topics, agenda, etc.) is organised by the Presidency of the Government coalition. The Presidency of the Government coalition is led by the chairman of each fraction of the coalition (or the representatives thereof) in rotation.

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