Estonian Reform Party and Social Democratic Party

calendar

POLICY PAPER:

Family policy: increased child benefits, continued reform of child benefits

1. We will increase the benefits for the first and second child to €45 per month and for the third child to €100 per month.

2. We will continue with a more steady increase in child benefits for those families that need it most. For families living in relative poverty, we will double the child benefits compared to other families – to €45 per month.

3. When determining subsistence benefits, we will increase the child’s portion from 0.8 to 1.0.

4. We will start a programme to eliminate the shortage of kindergarten places during the current European Union budgetary period. We will provide local governments with grant aid to expand childcare possibilities.

5. We will work out the principles to ensure that the state grants for students’ recreational activities are used more purposefully.

6. We will sign the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

7. We will enact strict state enforcement methods for those who evade the payment of child support payments: refusal to pay various state grants or issue state activity licences; deduction of support payments from income tax refunds and funded pension plan. We will give executive officials greater powers to collect support payments. We will make support claims valid until the debts are paid.

Tax policy: reducing labour-related taxes

Finance, budget

1. We will maintain a structurally balanced budget, adhere to the loan policy in the current budgetary strategy; and in the case of surpluses, will not compile any positive supplementary budgets.

2. We will increase the flexibility of the budget, by decreasing the linking of revenues to specific expenditure items.
3. Within the framework of the general development of governance, we will implement in-depth risk analysis and risk management in the planning process for government activities.

Taxes

4. When planning tax policy, we will strive to achieve longer advance planning periods for tax amendments.

5. In order to increase people’s incomes, stimulate economic growth and create new jobs, we prefer to shift the tax burden from the taxation of labour to the taxation of resource utilisation and pollution, as well as habits that shorten life spans and damage health.

6. We will set a goal of reducing the tax burden for low-income people and reducing tax exemptions that are advantageous for those who can cope best on their own.

Reducing labour-related taxes:

7. We will increase the non-taxable minimum from € 144 to € 154. In the 2015-2018 budget strategy, we foresee a long-term schedule for the increase in the non-taxable minimum;

8. We support the reduction of the unemployment tax rate by 0.6%;

9. We will toughen the measures to combat tax evasion, so as not to give those who participate in dishonest economic activities a competitive advantage. To achieve this, we will enact amendments to the Income Tax Act regarding the declaration of transactions of more than € 1,000 and will create an employment register;

10. For health protection and the reduction of the availability of products that pose a health hazard, we will further increase excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol. We will toughen the measures to combat the black market;

11. We will reduce tax exemptions, and among others things, reduce the tax advantages for legal persons that acquire and use cars;

12. We will reduce tax exemptions: we will replace the lower excise tax rate for special-purpose fuel and light heating oil with targeted grants. The discounted excise tax on marked fuel will continue to be valid for agriculture and fishing in small boats;

13. We will analyse the possibilities for implementing more effective measures to prevent the covert exportation of profits;

14. We will enact new environmental fees for 2016-2020.
National security: national defence and foreign policy

National defence

1. The fundamental principle of Estonia’s defence capability is the coordination of the NATO collective defence and Estonia’s independent initial defence capability. For Estonia’s national defence, a professional well-trained military is equally as important as the dedicated members of the Defence League and the conscripts performing their civil duty.

2. We will maintain defence costs at 2% of GDP. We will continue to implement the 10-year development plan for the Defence Forces.

3. We confirm Estonia’s continued readiness to participate in the fulfilment of our obligations to our allies and participation in peacekeeping missions under the auspices of NATO, the UN and the European Union.

4. We will pass a National Defence Act that will establish the basis for a broad-based approach to national defence, by combining military defence, the participation of the community in national defence and the protection of the state and the population.

5. We consider the principle of voluntary action – bringing together the Defence League and voluntary enlistment -- to be important for the development of the will to defend and the defence capability.

6. We will promote military veteran policies. We will develop a system of social guarantees for veterans and the acknowledgement of those who return from missions. And we will open a new rehabilitation and prosthetics centre at the East Tallinn Central Hospital.

Foreign policy

7. We will set a goal of strengthening the European Union’s foreign and security policies.

8. We will support the ratification of the Estonian-Russian border treaty.

9. We will continue working towards the election of Estonia as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2020.

10. We will emphasise the importance of strengthening the European Union’s Eastern Partnership policy. We will support the signing of association and free trade agreements with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. We will send a permanent diplomatic representative to Moldova.

11. We will support the European Union making rapid progress in signing free trade agreements with the U.S. and other important trading partners.
12. For the Baltic Sea Year, we will set a goal of increasing regional competitiveness. And, among others things, we will support the establishment of Rail Baltic, Baltic Connector and liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, together with the promotion of a digital regional common market.

13. We will support Estonian entrepreneurs in foreign markets, by increasing the cooperation between state agencies related to foreign trade policy.

14. We will open an Estonian Embassy in Brazil.

Democracy and involvement

1. We will eliminate the security required of political parties that are participating in the Riigikogu elections for the first time.

2. We will make equal the bases for political parties and single candidates in receiving administrative district mandates in Riigikogu elections, by establishing that both will receive a mandate upon the fulfilment of 0.75 of the quota.

3. We will update the procedure for electing the president, by lengthening the time for public debate available to the nominees.

4. We will establish a procedure requiring that the Government of the Republic submit the candidate for European Commissioner for discussion to the Riigikogu before his or her nomination.

5. We will make the Riigikogu rules of procedure and internal rules more inclusive and transparent. We will ensure that the non-governmental partners who were involved in preparing the draft legislation will also be involved in the committees.

6. We will eliminate the ban on combining work as a Riigikogu member with work as a member of a local government council. We will establish a system whereby Riigikogu members will not be compensated for their work as council members. We will initiate the good political practice of not allowing Riigikogu members run for office as a chairman or deputy chairman of a local government council.

7. In order to protect the rights of the opposition at local level, we will amend the Local Government Organisation Act so every council member can realise his or her right to belong to a council committee. We will also establish a system whereby the council committee chairmen and deputy chairmen are elected with the same vote and will harmonise the bases for preparing the agendas for council meetings.
8. We will establish a system whereby Riigikogu members can be appointed to be supervisory board members of state-owned businesses and foundations with the approval of the Riigikogu committee.

9. In order to increase transparency and prevent corruption, we will establish rules for lobbying activities in the public sector.

10. We will establish effective advertising restrictions for conducting election advertising campaigns with public funds.

11. We will support increasing the role of women in Estonian politics. We will set a goal of moving towards gender equality in the management of community life (Riigikogu, government, local government, etc.).

Social security, labour market, healthcare

1. We will raise pensions indexation to the maximum rate and will ensure that average old-age pensions continue to be exempt from income tax.

2. We will initiate a discussion about developing and implementing a pension system with flexibility on retirement ages as of 2019.

3. We will help older people who wish to continue working to preserve their jobs by offering services to maintain and increase job skills.

4. We will restore state funeral benefits for least privileged families.

5. We will promote comprehensive opportunities to involve people with special needs in community life.

Labour market

6. By working with the target groups, we will prepare and implement employment reforms with the aim of helping find jobs for people with special needs who wish to work. In addition, we will create labour market measures intended especially for people with special needs and will help to find jobs that are appropriate for their abilities and wishes.

7. With the involvement of both labour and management, we will initiate the process to achieve agreement regarding the fundamentals for work accident and occupational illness insurance.
8. We will support an agreement between labour and management to increase the minimum wage to € 390.

9. With the involvement of both labour and management, we will analyse the impact that the regulations related to voluntary resignation have on developments in the labour market.

10. We will support active labour market measures and lifelong learning for working people, and will rename the Unemployment Insurance Fund the Employment Insurance Fund. We will create a labour market service that, with the support of the Employment Insurance Fund and employers, facilitates the prevention of unemployment with the help of regular in-service training.

11. We will implement the principles of the Youth Guarantee – a labour market policy for young people agreed upon in the European Union.

12. We will analyse the possibilities for the promotion of employer pensions and increasing the sustainability of the pension system.

13. We will discuss the content of the draft Collective Agreements Act with the involvement of both labour and management.

14. To reduce the pay gap, we will increase the efficiency of Labour Inspectorate control over collective agreements. We will set an example for equal pay for men and women in the public sector.

**Healthcare**

15. When making important healthcare-related decisions, we will continue the successful policy of involving non-governmental organisations.

16. We will increase cooperation with hospitals in order to ensure the availability of quality healthcare services throughout Estonia.

17. In the name of making quality medical care available, we will support increasing the options of patients in healthcare. In custodial, rehabilitation and fertility treatment, we will support the movement towards free competition.

18. We will implement a programme to reduce the waiting lists for specialised medical care.

19. We will continue to introduce the option of personally packaged medicines, which help to make the price of medicines more advantageous for pensioners and children and make the taking of medicine safer.
20. We will pass a new regulation for the pharmacy market, which is constitutional and ensures the availability of medicines throughout Estonia and will stop pharmacies from moving from smaller rural settlements to larger centres.

21. We will weigh the possibilities for improving the availability of dental services for children, the elderly, and people with limited work capacity.

22. We will initiate a reform to improve the quality of care services in order to ensure good-quality custodial care at home for the elderly that require it.

23. For the protection of the population’s health, we will enact a system whereby, upon the request of the patient, the informational material for medicines will be available in pharmacies in English, Russian as well as Finnish.

24. We will invest in the development of the Tartu University Hospital and North Estonia Medical Centre in order to help them become top medical centres. We will establish health centres providing first contact care throughout Estonia.

25. We will establish a course towards personalised medicine based on modern gene technology.

**Education and science**

1. We will raise the salaries of teachers by allocating an additional salary fund from the state budget.

2. We will review the school salary fund as a whole and promise under the national education subsidy to the local governments to finance assistant specialists in schools or buy services from local support centres, if required.

3. We will guarantee stable state financing of the curricula of the school network according to the study programme and regardless of the form of ownership of the school. We will continue to fund the IB programme.

4. We will guarantee high-quality primary and basic education on a local level.

5. We seek to make a varied high-quality secondary education more accessible. We will establish state secondary schools in Tartu, Pärnu, Jõhvi and Võru, and continue with the preparations for establishing state secondary schools in Kärdla, Põlva, Valga and other towns that have shown preparedness.

6. We will start discussions similar to those about teacher’s pay on the subject of the recommended workload of teachers in regard to their contact hours and the appreciation of the work of the main class teacher.
7. We will continue the substitution of the labour grades of teachers with a unified vocational system, seeking to preserve the motivation for self-improvement. We will contribute to the development of the vocational education of teachers by emphasising the need for making the retraining and further training of teachers, which accompanies the education reform, more effective.

8. We will expand the school lunch benefit programme from basic school pupils to secondary school students.

9. We will continue the conversion of secondary schools to partially Estonian language based education, according to the current law in force. We will analyse the real situation regarding the conversion of Russian language secondary schools to Estonian language based secondary schools, with the intention of ensuring that they provide a high-quality secondary education that conforms to the national curriculum.

10. In order to improve the education provided in non-Estonian language based schools, we will contribute to better Estonian language lessons, to teacher training and the preparation of modern school materials required in that respect. We seek to increase the effectiveness of Estonian language lessons in non-Estonian language based schools.

11. We will initiate the establishment of a Russian Lyceum in Tallinn and Narva based on the Estonian national curriculum that would operate in a similar capacity to the existing French Lyceum and Tallinn English College.

12. We will value science-based engineering education, regarding basic education in mathematics, physics and informatics as its motivational prerequisite.

13. We will value vocational education with the intention of reducing the relative number of people on the labour market without a vocation. We will analyse the organisation of vocational studies and further training in vocational schools, by seeking to excite the interest of employers and expanding the possibilities of involving private funding in vocational education.

14. We will analyse the substantial and financial results of the transition to free higher education and the system of needs-based school subsidies, making amendments to the legislation, if required. As of 1 September 2014, we will apply the system of outcome-based stipends more extensively than has been planned to date.

15. We will analyse the effectiveness of open university programmes in higher education institutions and the organisation of further training in vocational schools, seeking to expand the possibilities of involving private funding in non-daytime study programmes.

16. We will analyse the feasibility of extending compulsory education until attainment of the age of majority (18 years old) or of vocational qualifications.
Science

17. We will increase funding for the engagement in science of all specialists conducting their doctoral studies in full capacity, which also provides them with a social guarantee.

18. We will analyse the funding of science. We will develop a balanced and transparent funding system for science, congruous to the practices of European countries, which would ensure the preservation of scientific institutions, fields of research and the scientific competency thereof that are essential to the nationhood and national culture of Estonia.

19. We will develop the principles of a scientific career.

20. We will facilitate the cooperation of scientists, the private sector and the state, as well as the participation of Estonian scientists in the proceedings of international scientific communities.

Business, innovation, transportation

Business, innovation

1. We will implement the programme "The Rights of Entrepreneurs 2": we will discuss and come to an agreement with entrepreneurs regarding communication, accountancy and administration between the private sector and the state.

2. We will bring into effect new legislation concerning investment funds, with the intention of making the Estonian legislative environment more internationally competitive for investors.

3. We will end the prolonged management crises in Enterprise Estonia and audit their activities up to the present. We will reorganise the national policy for subsidising business activities, with the intention of minimising anomalies in fair competition, primarily endorsing start-ups, exporting businesses and research and development.

4. We will develop a policy of ownership for state enterprises under which we intend to examine the business plans and investment history of Eesti Energia and other state enterprises together with the pay policy of the management of state enterprises. Under the policy of ownership, we will consider the long-term legitimacy of state ownership of various enterprises in terms of security and finance. The management of state enterprises will always be determined by way of free competition.

5. We will analyse the relevancy of regulations concerning smart immigration or job creation of employees that are higher-paid or that have a higher education.
6. In order to protect the consumer and curtail irresponsible lending, we will impose stricter regulations on businesses in the field of quick loans, with the intention of enforcing the requirement of a licence of activity and restrictive measures for advertisement among other things, and bring them under effective national supervision.

7. In order to facilitate the application of scientific and research results in private enterprises, we will establish a template of cooperation between universities, industry and government.

8. In recognition of the entrepreneurial spirit involved in job and wealth creation, and endeavouring, we will support the establishment of the celebration of Entrepreneurship Day.

Transportation

9. We will emphasise the vital importance of the island ferry connection with appropriate legislation. We will provide a solution to the hold-up in the organisation of ferry traffic and establish an stable ferry connection after the expiry of the current contract in 2016 in a fashion most expedient to both the state and the consumer.

10. We will determine within a year the route of Rail Baltic, an undertaking of strategic importance in respect to Estonian national importance, giving utmost care to the residential and environmental wishes of local inhabitants. We will specify the presumed operating costs of Rail Baltic.

11. According to the decision of the European Commission regarding state subsidisation of Estonian Air, we will develop solutions that ensure the continuation of the air traffic thereof.

12. We will analyse the feasibility of allowing bicycles, mopeds and electric cars on the traffic lane for public transport.

Energy

1. We will put into effect the development programme for energy economy until 2030, which will be guided by the following principles:

   a. In order to decrease energy dependency, we will develop the renewable energy industry and endorse the reduction of the dependency of the European Union on natural gas imported from Russia. We will endorse ambitious objectives concerning renewable energy at the level of the European Union (including the consideration of increasing the target rate of the pan-European use of renewable energy from 27% to 30%, and the support of reducing CO₂ emissions by 2030 by no less than 40%), but will speak in favour of allowing member states to choose their own measures for the implementation of those goals.
b. We will support the gradual transition to renewable energy in heat and energy production, aiming at complete transition to renewable energy in the long term.

c. We will preserve the exemption of biogas from excise duty.

d. We will take into account the need to find a balance between the preservation of nature, the retaining of jobs and the development of the economy in decision-making regarding matters of energy.

2. In order to decrease the energy dependency of Estonia, we will construct the Balticconnector, a natural gas pipeline between Estonia and Finland. We deem it necessary to establish a liquefied natural gas terminal (LNG) in Estonia.

3. We will complete the separation of the main gas grid from gas production.

4. The subsidies for the burning of wood in the oil shale boilers of Eesti Energia will not be re-implemented.

5. We will increase energy efficiency in the design, construction and renovation of public buildings.

6. We will develop the legislative prerequisites for the operation of energy cooperatives. The solution to the system of balance power will be composed in such a way as to support the establishment of energy cooperatives that communicate with the main grid as a single entity.

7. We will exempt the energy generated by small and micro-enterprises for self-consumption from excise duty and reduce the restrictions imposed on small and micro-enterprises.

8. We will initiate the preparation of the operational programme of the Smart Grid ("the Tiger Leap of the energy sector").

9. In order to improve the reliability of the energy supply, we will prepare the separation of ownership of Elektrilevi.

10. We will further develop the national analytic competency of climatic and energy policy.

11. We will engage the construction of the power lines between the islands and the mainland into the infrastructure investment programme.

**Citizenship, language and ethnic policy**

1. We will not change the principles of Estonian citizenship policy.
2. We will establish that underage people cannot be denaturalised.

3. We will establish that people older than 65 years need only to take the oral part of the language exam.

4. We will end the reproduction of statelessness. Children, whose parents are both without citizenship (1033 children born in Estonia as of 25/02/2014) and who are entitled to Estonian citizenship will obtain it, given the permission of their parents.

5. We will analyse the possibility of making the learning of the Estonian language more accessible for applicants of Estonian citizenship.

Environment

1. We will continue the successful policy of involving non-governmental organisations in the decision-making process regarding environmental issues.

Conservation

2. We will continue the modernisation of restrictions concerning the conservation of nature.

3. We will invest at least 5 billion Euros over the coming year in the conservation of the unique nature of Estonia and the realistic application of its protection.

4. We will clean up the public hiking trails. We will finance activities that intend to clear the Estonian landscape of dilapidated and dangerous military and industrial facilities or buildings.

5. We will allocate funds from the budget of the European Union to private forest owners, whose forest lands are located on the Natura areas and who are thereby contributing to the conservation of endangered European animal species and their habitats.

6. We will ensure the preservation and conservation of Estonian heritage landscapes by allocating funds from the budget of the European Union for their upkeep and investing therein.

7. We will develop further principles concerning compensation of environmental disturbances, under which the damage inflicted on nature in the process of the construction of large national infrastructure projects will be compensated.
8. We will initiate the compilation of a new development programme for hunting in cooperation with the hunting committee meeting with the Minister of the Environment.

9. We will hereafter grant use of state-owned hunting territories in accordance with the general principles outlined in the current hunting legislation.

10. We will follow the principle of caution regarding genetically mutated organisms (GMOs).

11. We will preserve the nature of Estonia and unique areas therein, and establish the Nabala nature preserve.

*Clean human environment*

12. In order to ensure the purity of drinking water, we will invest 60 million Euros to that effect over the coming year.

13. If required, we will amend the legislation and provide our support to water enterprises to end the sewer smell nuisance. In order to reduce smell pollution, we will apply the principle that in issuing air pollution permits the environmental impact will be considered in its entirety.

14. In order to promote the sorting and recycling of waste, we will abolish the cogeneration subsidisation of burning mixed municipal waste.

15. In order to incentivise waste sorting, we will enable the local governments to decide upon the frequency of the mandatory transport of waste.

16. We will initiate reform concerning the management of the transport of waste, under which the compulsion of joining the waste disposal system would remain, but the right to choose a service provider offering the best value for money would exist. In implementing this reform, we prioritise the preservation of the accessibility of affordable waste management in areas of low population density and the guaranteed funding of waste management to local governments.

17. In order to stimulate waste sorting and eco-friendly systems of waste management and to ensure the stable funding of waste management to local governments, we will develop a system of environmental taxation of waste management dependent on the waste management prioritisation of the European Union in conjunction with the compilation of a new framework for environmental fees.

*Use of natural resources*

18. We will discuss and agree upon a new framework of environmental fees for the years 2016-2020. The new programme will envisage the separation of resource fees for construction-related natural resources into fees for resource ownership and fees for resource exploitation.
19. We will continue the development of a cost-effective development programme for the utilisation of oil shale for the year 2016 and onwards. We will hold public debates on this matter and finalise the programme, thereby creating a clear framework for both the protection of the environment and the development of the oil shale industry. As opposed to current mining permits, we will abstain from bloating the mining capacity of oil shale that is detrimental to the human environment of Viru county. In compiling the development programme, we will analyse the possibility of reducing the oil shale mining capacity to 15 million tonnes per annum and will exclude the possibility of expanding the oil shale mining capacity to over 20 million tonnes per annum. In mining capacity related decision-making, we will take into account the necessity of finding a balance between the preservation of nature, retaining jobs and the development of the economy.

20. In order to provide maximum possible benefits to the tax payers in using state-owned natural resources, to compensate for the environmental damage impacted by burning oil shale and to eradicate the monopolistic nature of the system, we will analyse the possibility of separating the national oil-shale resources (excluding the security stock for electricity production) from Eesti Energia and the establishment of a Public Limited Liability Company for the Management of State-Owned Natural Resources (RMMA/ ...) for the administration of the national oil shale stockpile.

21. Proceeding from the principle of caution and the inadmissibility of activities that damage the human environment, we will not allow for the mining of phosphorus or any research that might jeopardise the ground water.

22. We will review and abolish restrictions that in the present day hinder the broader use of local materials in construction, especially timber.

Rural life, agriculture, regional policy

1. We will use the EU funds available during the current financial period (2014+) so as to improve the quality of life throughout Estonia. We will strengthen the regional policy aspect of sectoral policies. We acknowledge that the preparation of draft laws and strategic documents should, as a rule, involve a regional policy impact assessment.

2. We will begin distributing the EUR 725 million earmarked by the European Union to support rural life activities under the new Rural Development Plan and secure the required co-financing by the Estonian state. To improve access to rural life assistance, we will reduce restrictions on applying for support under the Rural Development Plan (RDP).

3. We aim to conclude the land and ownership reform by 2017 and prepare for a transfer from periodic assessment of land to the so-called real-time
assessment. We will continue auctions for the sale of lands from the state land reserve.

4. To improve the competitiveness of Estonia’s important timber industry, we will reduce timber truck weight restrictions on major highways, while observing the Smart Road concept and condition of the roads. To ensure road safety, we will urge timber carriers to conclude a good-will agreement and increase sanctions for violators of applicable restrictions.

5. We will continue to implement the programme of the service centres.

6. We will continue to convert gravel roads near residential buildings into dust-free roads.

7. We will complete preparatory procedures for implementing the structural funds and ensure the sustainability of implementing agencies; we will continue the development of e-PRIA.

8. We will maintain a preferential excise duty rate for diesel fuel used in agriculture.

9. We will prepare a strategy for the presentation and promotion of Estonian food and allocate funds for the implementation of related activities.

10. We will renew the Ida-Viru County strategy and action plan and initiate similar plans for South-East Estonia.

Legal order and internal security

1. We will continue the ongoing reform to expedite judicial proceedings.

2. We will increase the salaries of police, rescue and other internal security personnel.

3. To clarify and strengthen the legal protection of fundamental rights and provide for more efficient uncovering of serious crimes defined in the so-called Laulasmaa Declaration (drug and human trafficking, criminal proceeds, crimes against children, etc.), we will adopt the required amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, Penal Code and Code of Misdemeanour Procedure.

4. To improve the protection of fundamental rights, we will lay down a procedure for fair compensation of damages inflicted by the state in criminal proceedings.

5. To improve the protection of fundamental rights and national security, we will further specify the security and background checks procedure. We will
strengthen the capability of parliamentary supervision of security authorities.

6. We will continue to develop the independent supervision of surveillance agencies and data processing by providing relevant powers to the Chancellor of Justice.

7. We will continue the forceful implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy. We will improve the capability of the Central Criminal Police to uncover serious crimes and the counterintelligence capability of the Security Police to protect national security.

8. We will adopt a new Anti-Violence Action Plan focusing on the reduction of violence against women and domestic violence. We will sign the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

9. We will build the Tartu open prison and the Joint Rescue and Emergency Stations of Lasnamäe and Tartu and continue preparations for building the Tallinn courthouse, Tallinn (Rae) prison and the judicial building. We will complete the merger of emergency alarm centres. We will explore the possibilities for transferring the Estonian Public Service Academy to Ida-Viru County to reinforce the presence of the state.

10. We will assemble the laws relating to intellectual property into a single code.

11. We will increase the penalty payments for financial and competition violations.

1. We will observe the principle that where non-governmental organisations are involved in the provision of public services (voluntary rescue organisations, women’s shelters, legal aid for the disadvantaged, etc.), the state will choose such partners for a period of at least two years. We attach importance to the development of voluntary work and the representative organisations of volunteers.

2. We will analyse the possibilities to establish a set of social guarantees similar to prison staff for rescue workers who perform onerous duties.

**Culture and sports**

1. We will act upon the General Principles of Cultural Policy up to 2020.

2. We will develop a solution for providing social guarantees to freelancer creative persons and other persons with irregular income or persons working for several employees for whom social tax has been paid.
3. We will increase the salaries of cultural workers. We will strive for the principle that cultural workers with higher education who receive their salary from the state or a state foundation and whose position requires a higher education should be treated equally with educational workers in terms of salary increases.

4. We will maintain the operating and funding principles of the Cultural Endowment.

5. We will adopt a new Heritage Conservation Act, which will create a joint structure of memory institutions (a joint Heritage Conservation and Museum Board).

6. We will renew the Public Libraries Act and envisage the transformation of public libraries into information centres that provide a more extensive set of services.

7. We will advocate an increase in Estonian music recordings and performances in Estonian Public Broadcasting.

8. We will continue construction of the Estonian National Museum and the new National Archives building and preparations to build the International Arvo Pärt Centre, the new Estonian Academy of Arts building, the Theatre and Music Academy hall and the new School of Fine Arts building.

9. We advocate the continuation of the activities of MTÜ Vene Muuseum under the auspices of the Estonian National Museum.

10. We will upgrade the Estonians Abroad programme in order to create a global network of Estonians; we will improve the coordinated implementation of the programme.

11. We will help direct the European Union funds required for the transfer to digital cinema into theatres and cultural centres located in county capitals.

12. During the legislative proceedings of the draft Building and Planning Code, we will develop a solution for creating a spatial planning centre of competence.

**Sports**

13. We will complete the preparation for the Sports 2030 Development Strategy.

14. We will honour the work of coaches working with children and youth:

   a. We will facilitate the transfer to a salary-based system, which will ensure social guarantees for youth coaches.
b. We will define the “stipend” concept and specify the permissible cases, extent and recipients of stipend payments.

15. We will continue investments towards improving recreational sports opportunities:
   a. We will facilitate the dissemination of the Year of Physical Activity approach.
   b. We will promote amateur sports in cooperation with municipalities.
   c. We will seek to involve half of the Estonian population in regular recreational physical activities.

16. The state will permit state-owned companies to allocate a part of their profit to supporting cultural, sports and educational activities. We will advocate the involvement of private capital in supporting sports.

17. We will continue to support the basic swimming training programme in schools.

State reform

1. We will renew the Government of the Republic Act to increase the flexibility of assembling the cabinet of ministers and distribution of responsibilities within the cabinet. We will deal with the reform of the executive structure at government level, development of sectoral policies at ministry level and implementation at agency level. We seek to implement the act so as to apply to the next government, which will take office after the 2015 Riigikogu elections.

2. We will abolish the post of assistant minister and broaden the powers of cabinet ministers who do not have the right to issue independent legal acts under the existing law.

3. We will extend cooperation between ministries for the provision of services at regional and local levels; we will continue preparations for the establishment of public service centres.

4. We will continue to concentrate the state’s support services into a single centre and develop electronic services in order to improve the efficiency of the state’s human resources accounting, property management services and procurements and avoid the duplication of activities.

5. We will separate the subordination of supervision and policy drafting
activities in order to improve the independence of competition supervision. We will increase the efficiency of consumer protection.

6. We will transfer the development of the e-State under the Prime Minister’s leadership and the coordination of the Open Government Partnership under the State Chancellery.

*Incl. Local government reform*

7. We will prepare a local government reform plan by 2015 to unequivocally specify:
   a. the tasks that should be performed at each level;
   b. the evolution of financing needed to implement those tasks.

8. We deem county-level cooperation to be an important objective of local government reform.

**Republic of Estonia 100 and the 2018 European Union presidency**

We will continue preparations for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia in cooperation between the state and non-governmental sector. We attach importance to conveying the anniversary to all the people of Estonia and the involvement of all people in the celebrations. We will hold a nationwide idea competition to find the best ideas for dignified anniversary celebrations to be remembered.

We will work towards ensuring a professional and coherent Estonian EU presidency in the year 2018.

Taavi Rõivas

Candidate for Prime Minister, Estonian Reform Party

Sven Mikser

President of the SDP
ANNEX

Allocation of responsibilities

In the coalition between the Estonian Reform Party and the Estonian Social Democratic Party:

Prime Minister – Reform Party
President of the Riigikogu – SDP

Minister of Foreign Affairs – Reform Party
Minister of Defence – SDP

Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure – SDP
Minister of Finance – Reform Party

Minister of Justice – SDP
Minister of the Interior – Reform Party

Minister of Education and Research – SDP
Minister of Culture – Reform Party

Minister of the Environment – Reform Party
Minister of Agriculture – SDP

Minister of Social Welfare – SDP
Minister of Health and Labour – Reform Party

Minister of Foreign Trade and Entrepreneurship – Reform Party
First Vice President of the Riigikogu – Reform Party