

Dear participants of 47th Taize Youth Meeting!

As minister of the interior of Estonia and as also the cabinet member responsible for religious affairs, I welcome you all to Tallinn and to Estonia. It is a great honour to have you here as part of an international meeting.

Taize is a unique way of bringing people together. As an open platform it provides opportunities to see different countries, to meet new people, to enhance one's view of the world. And of course witness the beginning of the new calendar year - this time here in Estonia.

I know that your days here will be busy, the schedule is tight. But please do take time to just enjoy the moments, whether in workshops, at lunch or at dinner, in prayer or in conversations with your host-family.

A lot of effort has been put into organise this meeting. I want to thank all the organiser, Estonian Council of Churches, The Taizé community, and also other local organisations and of course hosting families and others who provide accomodation and who helped this meeting to take place.

Please enjoy your stay here and hopefully find reason some day to come again to Estonia.

Lauri Läänemets  
Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia