

G8 to focus on energy supply security

This weekend's talks in Russia among the Group of Eight nations will focus on the security of global energy supplies. G8 finance ministers will offer financial incentives if Moscow agrees to liberalise Russian oil and gas sectors with a view to safeguarding European supplies



ENERGY France wants Moscow to ratify the 50-nation **Energy Charter Treaty**, creating legal framework for Russia's energy sector

Plan will provide longer term contracts to Russia for energy supply and help arrange financing from **World Bank** and other international bodies to build more gas pipelines



DEBT Russia wants agreement on debt buyback deal for early repayment of \$11-\$12 billion it owes to **Paris Club** of sovereign lenders

Money would be used to boost capital of multilateral lenders involved in programme to write off \$38 billion owed by world's poorest countries agreed by G8 at **Gleneagles**



OTHER ISSUES Combating infectious diseases, including potential bird-flu pandemic, improving access to education, and efforts to stem financing of terrorist networks



NEW MEMBERS Representatives of **China, Brazil, India, and South Africa** – countries tipped as possible future members – to attend discussion on international trade

G8 NATIONS Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, U.S., plus Russia

Sources: G8 Summit 2006, news agencies

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