

Russian power-sharing

With Dmitry Medvedev virtually certain to be Russia's next president, Vladimir Putin is expected to become prime minister. While Putin has pledged not to change the distribution of authority between president and prime minister, many analysts expect a shift in the centre of power

PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

- ▶ Head of state and commander-in-chief of armed forces – in charge of nuclear weapons
- ▶ Sets foreign and domestic policies
- ▶ Appoints and sacks Prime Minister, subject to parliamentary approval
- ▶ Can veto laws passed by Duma, which needs two-thirds majority to overcome president's opposition
- ▶ Controls and appoints Security Council, which oversees Russia's defence and security policies
- ▶ Can call state of emergency or impose military law

PRIME MINISTERIAL POWERS

- ▶ Heads cabinet of ministers
- ▶ Implements domestic and foreign policy and Presidential decrees
- ▶ Coordinates economic and fiscal policy, manages federal property
- ▶ Sets prices for gas, electricity and domestic transport
- ▶ Controls social, labour, migration and family policies
- ▶ Becomes acting president if president "is not in condition to fulfil his responsibilities"

Sources: Kremlin, wire agencies

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