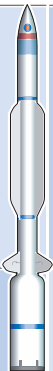


Medvedev's international agenda

When Dmitry Medvedev, a lawyer with little foreign policy experience, is sworn in as Russian president he will lead a nation with a nuclear arsenal, a UN veto and volatile relations with an energy-hungry West

MISSILE SHIELD

Moscow suspects planned U.S. missile defence shield in eastern Europe will spy on Russia's missile arsenal. *Russia-U.S. relations likely to remain strained over issue*



GEORGIA

Standoff over Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia has worsened relations. *Kremlin hardliners said to be ramping up tension to push Medvedev into anti-Western stance*



WTO MEMBERSHIP

Deal on Russia's entry under threat from EU after Moscow increased tariffs on timber exports, and from Georgia over Abkhazia. *Medvedev says Moscow can gain accession process this year*

NATO EXPANSION

Russia says enlargement will upset fragile balance of power in Europe and threaten Russian security. *Moscow opposes recent NATO agreement to admit Ukraine and Georgia*



EU RELATIONS

Attempt to draft new strategic partnership with EU, Russia's biggest trading partner, stalled for last two years. *Any new talks likely to be beset by disagreements over trade, energy and human rights*

IRAN

Unlike Western powers, Moscow prefers incentives over sanctions in tackling Iran's nuclear programme. *Policy unlikely to change when Medvedev takes office*



CHINA

China is hungry for Russian energy resources but its growing political and military power is regarded with suspicion. *Medvedev plans visit to China soon after inauguration*

