

### **Britain & Italy to collaborate on nuclear energy**

Britain and Italy have agreed to work together to develop nuclear energy to ease their reliance on expensive oil and gas. "I'm pleased to announce our two countries will work together in the area of nuclear energy," British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi jointly announced. "We both agreed that nuclear power can play an important part (in achieving) our shared objectives on climate change and energy security," says Brown. Berlusconi says Italy will work alongside Britain to speed up investments in nuclear power and to work quickly on developing alternative sources of energy. "We do hope that there is going to be a single nuclear policy for Europe," he adds. Italy is the only Group of Eight industrialised nation without nuclear power after the country rejected it in a 1987 referendum following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The Italian Government has pledged to start building new plants within five years to ease the burden of energy imports. The British Government also favours building new nuclear power stations as part of a mix of energy sources to reduce reliance on imported oil and gas and help meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

[Source essa news]