



The News

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A surprise result for the first round of the investiture congress of *les Republicains*: Eric Ciotti is ahead with 25.6% of votes and Valérie Pécresse also qualified for the second round. All the eliminated candidates call to vote for the president of the Ile de France region. This is the case in particular of Xavier Bertrand who arrives 4th behind Michel Barnier and in front of Philippe Juvin. Voting for the second round will start tomorrow at 8 a.m. and the name of the winner will be announced early Saturday afternoon.

Also in the news, the Omicron variant could become the main variant in Europe "in the next few months" according to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control. Preliminary data suggest a substantial advantage "of the new variant over the variant dominant up until now, the Delta variant. The first cases of Omicron are starting to appear throughout the world, including in France where 3 cases have been confirmed today.

In Germany, stricter measures against the unvaccinated are being put in place. The unvaccinated will no longer have access to non-essential shops, restaurants, places of culture or leisure, as announced by Angela Merkel today. A draft bill to make vaccination compulsory next spring will also be considered by the German parliament.

Meanwhile the Association of Mayors of France challenges Olivier Véran on "supply restrictions" in Pfizer vaccines. Its newly elected president, David Lisnard, wrote a letter to the Minister of Health. He says he had been questioned by several elected officials who said they had received instructions to only open new vaccination slots with Moderna vaccines.

And then a ceremony took place to mark the first year following the death of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing took place today in Strasbourg at the European Parliament with Emmanuel Macron. The Head of State paid tribute to a "great captain of the European project".