



The News ©

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by Emma Phillips

Bombing can be heard in the streets of Kiev. Anti-aircraft defense sirens have been sounding in the Ukrainian capital, with residents called to go to shelters. Last night, in a televised speech, Vladimir Putin announced a military operation in the Donbass. According to the Russian ambassador to the UN, this operation will target the ruling junta in Kiev. The Russian President has called on Ukrainian soldiers to lay down their arms. Putin has pledged to retaliate against anyone who tries to interfere with Russia, with an immediate response.

The international community has been reacting to Russia's course of action. The French ambassador to the UN has pointed to "Russia's contempt for the United Nations". US President Joe Biden has deplored unjustified attacks, stating that "Russia bears sole responsibility for the death and destruction this attack will cause". On twitter, Boris Johnson said, "The UK and its allies will respond decisively."

In the meantime, the price of oil is soaring: one of the first economic consequences of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. This morning, the price of a barrel exceeded 100 dollars, a first in seven years.

The Prefect in Guadeloupe has announced the relaxing of some of the health restrictions there. Alexandre Rochatte confirmed that the curfew now begins at 11pm instead of 9pm and that the cap on the number of people in restaurants is lifted, as well as the 8 square meters per person rule in stores. The requirement for the vaccination pass, on the other hand, has not been enforced yet. It will be rolled out at the end of March.

The United Kingdom is also easing a large part of its health measures. From today, people who test positive for coronavirus will no longer have to isolate. From April 1, screening tests will no longer be free.

And finally to rugby, the line-up of France's fifteen who will face Scotland on Saturday in the 6 nations tournament will be announced at noon.