



**The News ©**  
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*by Nia Cason*

Will they manage to agree on a ceasefire? The Russian and Ukrainian delegations are meeting this morning for new talks a week after the start of the Moscow offensive. In the meantime, fighting continues on the ground. Several loud explosions have been heard in Kiev in recent hours. The Ukrainian army has also announced that the Russians have taken control of the city of Kherson in the south of the country.

Meanwhile Ukrainians continue to flee to neighboring countries. According to the UN, one million refugees have left the country in one week. During his televised speech last night, Emmanuel Macron assured that France will play its part in receiving these refugees.

The Head of State spoke to the French people for about fifteen minutes. He attacked Vladimir Putin who, according to him, chose this war. He also specified that France is not at war with Russia, and that he would remain in contact with his Russian counterpart to try to convince him to give up arms.

The conflict revives the need to improve European defense. This must take a new step according to Emmanuel Macron, who announced yesterday a European summit on the subject Thursday and next Friday in Versailles. It will bring together all the heads of State and government of the European Union. The president pleads for a more independent Europe, also from an energy point of view. We can no longer depend on Russian gas to move us, heat us and run our factories, he said.

In the rest of the news, Australia is still hit by violent floods. Rescue services are ordering 200,000 people to evacuate their homes due to heavy rain, which is heading towards Sydney this morning. For more than a week, these torrential rains have ravaged the east coast of the country, and the death toll is now 13.