



**The News ©**  
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*by Emma Phillips*

Vladimir Putin has told Emmanuel Macron that he will achieve his objectives in Ukraine “either through negotiation or through war”. Putin had a phone call with the President yesterday in which he reiterated his desire to invade Ukraine. Putin did claim that attacking nuclear power plants was “not his intention”. For now, the Elysée has expressed that fresh sanctions could be rolled out against Russia in a bid to stop Putin from going any further.

As Ukrainian negotiators prepare to sit down with Russia for a new round of talks today, there is no sign of the ceasefire that has been so desperately called for. Instead, Russian bombing continues in Kharkiv, Mariupol and in Irpin, a town near Kyiv where civilians were killed yesterday.

1.5 million Ukrainians have now fled their country as Russian attacks continue. The past ten days have seen most of this number leave for Poland. This war has generated the fastest-growing refugee crisis since the Second World War. The UN Security Council will be meeting again this afternoon to discuss how to address the humanitarian crisis.

With a month to go until the presidential election, the candidates are ramping up the campaign rallies. Eric Zemmour was in Toulon yesterday in front of 8,000 people. The candidate from the far-right party, Reconquête, or Reconquest took the opportunity to introduce his supporters to Marion Maréchal. The niece of Marine Le Pen, another far right candidate, has decided to join forces with Eric Zemmour. Meanwhile, on the left, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the candidate for France Insoumise held a rally yesterday in Lyon in front of 15,000 people.

Today sees the first campaign trip for the president incumbent. Emmanuel Macron will be heading to the town of Poissy in the Yvelines this evening. The president will be meeting local residents at an arts management centre for a discussion in which the topics will be picked by the public.

And finally, a word on the Paralympic Games. France bagged another gold medal this morning in Beijing as Cécile Hernandez won the snowboard cross final. This is the second gold for France since the start of the games and the fourth medal overall.