

The News March 17th 6pm© by Noele Bouazouni-Prier



Emmanuel Macron confirms that he wants to push back the retirement age to 65. The candidate for his own succession said this earlier during the presentation of his program, in Aubervilliers. Emmanuel Macron concedes that "we have to work more". He also wants the payment of the RSA to depend upon the completion of 15 to 20 hours of activity per week in view of a professional integration. The candidate's objective is to reach full employment in five years.

They intend to challenge all the presidential candidates on the question of wages. Unions are demonstrating today throughout France as part of an interprofessional movement. Over 170 demonstrations are organized.

Meanwhile, professionals who are handicapped by fuel prices remain dissatisfied. The Brest oil depot was still blocked this morning by public works craftsmen, who are disappointed with the help announced by the government through the resilience plan. They feel neglected and are calling for a reduction in the domestic tax on energy products.

Measures of the health protocol are being lifted in middle schools and high school. From Monday, contact case students over the age of 12, who are not vaccinated, will no longer have to isolate themselves for seven days. This was announced today by the Ministry of Education.

In Ukraine, bombings continue after three weeks of war. At least 21 people have died following a Russian strike near Kharkiv, in the east of the country. A school and a cultural center have been destroyed. 25 people were also injured. The Ukrainian Defense Minister asks the European Union to consider Vladimir Putin a "war criminal". He urges the EU to step up the delivery of weapons to help kyiv fight the armed forces of Moscow.

And then soccer to finish: Didier Deschamps announced this afternoon his selection for the next friendly matches of *les Bleus*. Two new players are on the list: the Leipzig striker Christopher Nkunku and the defender of Lens Jonathan Clauss. Olivier Giroud and Ousmane Dembélé have not been called. The French team will play against Côte d'Ivoire in Marseille on March 25 and against South Africa on March 29 in Lille.