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by Emma Phillips

Emmanuel Macron has laid out his program for a potential second term. Measures include pushing back the retirement age to 65, national service becoming mandatory and needing to clock up between 15 to 20 hours of professional activity per week in order to claim the minimum level of benefits, the RSA. Macron held a press conference yesterday afternoon in order to go through the measures which would cost 50 billion euros to implement.

Macron's program was immediately torn apart by his rival candidates for the presidency. The communist Fabien Roussel deplored "5 more years of misfortune for the world of work" while the far-right candidate Marine Le Pen said that Macron had "already promised to revitalize democracy", but that he had "kept none of his promises in this area".

France will release 300 million euros of financial aid to Ukraine. Emmanuel Macron spoke to Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky last night on the phone. As the Russian invasion reaches its 23rd day, yesterday at least 27 people were killed near Kharkiv by an artillery strike. A school and a cultural centre were destroyed. Yesterday also saw Russia abandon presenting a resolution to the United Nations Security Council, as it had failed to garner support from India and China.

The minimum wage could be set to rise slightly by the time summer arrives. The Minister of the Economy, Bruno Le Maire, spoke on channel TF1 yesterday and explained the SMIC should go up by around 25 euros net per month. According to the national institute of statistics, INSEE, this rise may even reach 32 euros.

Yvan Colonna's prison sentence was suspended last night by the courts for "medical reasons". The life of the Corsican independence activist still hangs in the balance after the attack from a fellow prisoner in Arles. Family visits are due to be facilitated.

And finally to football, Lyon is through to the quarter-finals of the Europa League after taking out FC Porto last night with a 1-1 draw.