



## The News ©

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*by Emma Phillips*

NATO has expressed concern that Russian forces are simply not withdrawing from Ukraine. Yesterday, the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that Russian forces were “repositioning themselves” in order to “regroup, resupply and reinforce its offensive in the Donbas region”. A humanitarian corridor is due to be set up this morning at Russia’s initiative in Mariupol, a large city in southeastern Ukraine where nearly 100,000 civilians are currently without food or heating.

Meanwhile, last night the Russian army left the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl after more than 5 weeks of occupation. According to the Ukrainian nuclear agency, equipment and premises at the site have been looted.

The government has decided to roll out a boost for motorists in the face of soaring fuel prices. Fuel prices are cut by 15 to 18 cents per litre as of today. The State rebate will remain in place until at least July 31.

France has seen snow and ice across the country this morning. Some school transport has been suspended and speeds have been reduced on certain roads. 22 départements have been put on orange weather alert by Météo France.

Today is April 1st, marking the end of the annual “treve hivernale” or “winter truce” that protects tenants from becoming homeless during the coldest months. Landlords can resume evictions from today for unpaid rent. Charities say they expect a surge in evictions this year after two years of calm due to COVID-19.

A tough day lies ahead on day 193 of the trial on the November Paris attacks of 2015. The association Life for Paris, which is a civil party in the trial, has requested the broadcast of sound recordings and some fifteen photos of the Bataclan attack to the hearing. The trial is taking place before the special assize court of Paris.

And finally, who will France be playing in the group stage of next year's World Cup in Qatar? The line-ups will be revealed tonight in a draw that starts at 6 pm.