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April 29th, 7pm

by Emma Phillips

Emmanuel Macron has pledged a summer packed full of social policy. As he heads into his second term, the President has expressed that he wants to move quickly. Speaking from his visit to the Hautes Pyrénées today, Macron laid out his priorities which include schools, the health system and major plans to boost the French public's purchasing power. This last point has been a major concern for voters in the midst of soaring inflation, which has risen by 4.8% over the past year, according to the latest figures from the national institute for statistics, INSEE, published in April.

Meanwhile, the question remains as to whether the left can pull together to pull off success in the legislative elections. For now, negotiations have ground to a halt between the socialist party and France Insoumise. The heads of the socialist party decided to suspend proceedings as they are still waiting on guarantees from Jean-Luc Mélenchon's party on matters including Europe and Ukraine.

Adrien Taquet, the current Secretary of State for Children has announced he will be stepping back from politics. Taquet, who is also the member of parliament for the Hauts de Seine will not be standing in the upcoming legislative elections. A close ally of Emmanuel Macron since the early days of the party La République en Marche, Taquet says he wants to spend more time with his family.

France has denounced the indiscriminate strikes carried out last night by Russia in Kyiv. The bombings came in the middle of a visit from UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres to the Ukrainian capital. At least one person was killed, a Ukrainian journalist who worked for an international radio. Her body was found under the rubble where her home had stood.

A word on rugby now and the end of an era lies ahead at the stadium in Toulouse stadium as Maxime Médard has announced he will be retiring at the end of the season. The 35-year-old international full-back will put his career to bed after 18 seasons in the red and black jersey and an extraordinary track record, including 5 French championships, 3 European cups with Toulouse and 63 selections as part of the French team.

And finally, Celine Dion fans will have to think twice about finalising plans to see her in concert this year. The singer is once again postponing her European tour for health reasons. All concerts are rescheduled for 2023.