



## The News

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*by Sarah Heath*

The Socialist Party has agreed to join forces with the Green Party, La France Insoumise and the far left for the upcoming legislative elections. Three hundred party members met last night and voted overwhelmingly in favour of this action with 167 votes for, 101 votes against and 23 abstentions. This latest political alliance was formed despite the reluctance of certain political heavyweights such as Carole Delga who is president of the Occitanie region and Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, former first secretary.

However, tactical moves have also been put in place for President Macron's La République En Marche. Now using a new party name 'Renaissance', the presidential majority will have the support of MoDem, Horizons and Territoire de progrès et Agir making up 400 candidates under the umbrella title 'Ensemble'. Gerald Darmanin and Elisabeth Borne were among 187 candidates put forward for this group. Manuel Valls has also been confirmed as representative of French nationals living abroad.

To news of the war in Ukraine. The UN has announced the dispatch of a new convoy to evacuate civilians from the Azovstal factory in Mariupol, the last pocket of Ukrainian resistance in the strategic area of Donbass. Moscow had promised a ceasefire for the opening of three humanitarian corridors but Kyiv is accusing the Russians of not respecting it.

In a first in the United States, a black woman Karine Jean-Pierre will be spokesperson for the White House. Aged 44, she has been the deputy spokesperson for the Biden administration and had already held several posts at the White House under Barack Obama.

Back in France to the Isère, where a professional speleologist, who had been supervising a school outing, was found dead in a cave. The group was taken unaware by the rising waters in the Cuves de Sassenage. The Grenoble prosecutor's office has opened an investigation into the circumstances of the incident.

And finally to football and a question mark over Kylian Mbappé's future. PSG confirm he is staying with the Parisian team but Real Madrid may be his first choice.

