



The News

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by Sarah Heath

For the first time in 59 years, Queen Elizabeth II will be absent today for the state opening of Parliament. Buckingham Palace has communicated that the British monarch has "mobility problems" and it will therefore be her son, Prince Charles, who will deliver the speech. The Queen has only missed this event twice – in 1959 and 1963 – due to being pregnant.

The United States is increasing its support for Ukraine. US President Joe Biden yesterday signed a law accelerating the shipment of military equipment to Ukraine. This law had previously been put in place by the US during the Second World War to help the allies. In Europe, Emmanuel Macron and the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, had a meeting yesterday in Berlin, after which they also announced their full support for Ukraine.

During his visit to Berlin, President Macron announced that he has decided who will be his future Prime Minister, although he has yet to say who. This will be formally announced from May 13th, the official start of the second presidential term.

There are concerns over the fact that there are currently 15 French départements, affected by drought conditions, 10 of which have exceeded the alert threshold. The lack of rain may have consequences on the yield of certain crops such as wheat or barley. These areas are now subject to water restrictions.

And finally to art and another record-breaking sale for a masterpiece. Andy Warhol's famous Marilyn Monroe painting has been sold at auction in New York for a staggering \$195 million, making it the most expensive artwork from the 20th century.