



The News

May 17th, 9am ©

by Sarah Heath

Matignon has a new tenant as of President Macron's decision yesterday. Elisabeth Borne has been appointed Prime Minister by the head of state to replace Jean Castex. The former Labour Minister becomes only the second woman in French history to hold the position of head of government – the first being Edith Cresson. Ms Borne tweeted that, "the challenges ahead are great. I fully accept this responsibility". However, the role starts with the immediate challenge of the upcoming législatives campaign. The new Prime Minister will herself be a candidate in Calvados, under the banner Ensemble.

The municipal council of Grenoble has given the green light to the burkini in swimming pools, after 2 hours 30 minutes of sometimes tense debate but it was narrowly voted through.

In Béziers, a 37-year-old woman was found dead yesterday at her home. She had allegedly been stabbed multiple times in the chest. Her ex-partner, who is the main suspect in this case, was arrested. According to some reports, he had threatened to kill the victim many times prior to her death.

PSG has reacted to the Idrissa Gueye affair. The Senegalese footballer refused to play this weekend in Ligue 1 on a day highlighting the fight against homophobia. The club specified that it was a personal choice for the player, without mentioning any form of discrimination.

More than 260 Ukrainian fighters were evacuated yesterday from the Azovstal factory in Mariupol – an area besieged for weeks by Russian troops. They will be repatriated to territory controlled by Ukraine in the coming days.

And finally, the 75th Cannes Film Festival starts today with 21 films in the running this year. Among them are "Les Crimes du Futur" by David Cronenberg and "Brother and Sister" by Arnaud Desplechin. At the close of the festival on May the 28th, Pierre Lescure will step down and will be replaced by Iris Knobloch – the first woman to hold this position.

