



## The News

**July 15<sup>th</sup> 5pm©**

*by Noele Bouazouni-Prier*

Today may be one of the hottest days ever recorded in France. Heat records are being broken one after the other. For the first time in history, the Ile d'Ouessant records a temperature above 30 degrees - The island was so far the last low altitude place in France to never have reached such temperatures. Other records were broken today in Brest for example, where 37.8 degrees were recorded this afternoon.

And in this suffocating atmosphere, fires continue in Gironde where 8 thousand people are being evacuated of Teste de Buch. Authorities are taking precautions as the wind is unstable. In all 14800 hectares have already gone up in smoke, mostly in the area of Landirass. The Minister of the Interior announces the dispatch of backup. 1700 firefighters from all over France are hard at work supported by 6 Canadairs and 3 Dash planes.

The bill on purchasing power will be discussed in the Assembly today. MPs will examine the text which proposes a series of measures to help the French cope with inflation. These measures include a 4% increase in social benefits and pensions, a food check of 100 euros for low-income families and even the abolition of the audiovisual license fee. A text that should give rise to another showdown between the opposition and the majority. More than a thousand amendments have been submitted.

Cereal exports via the Black Sea are at the heart of discussions between Russians and Ukrainians. A meeting is organized this week in Turkey. The draft agreement aims to remove 20 million tons of cereals blocked in Ukrainian silos because of the offensive led by Moscow. According to Josep Borell, the head of European diplomacy, the resumption of exports is a matter of life or death.

In cycling, the covid tests carried out yesterday on the riders of the Tour de France revealed two suspected cases among the riders. They were placed in solitary confinement pending other results, but their identity did not filter. We just know that they are not members of the TOP 20 in the general classification.