



The News ©
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by Emma Phillips

The new bill intended to boost the purchasing power of the public to help them cope with the current inflation was adopted at its first reading by the Assemblée Nationale. Members of parliament spent the entire night debating the bill before approving it 341 votes to 116. The bill contains a series of measures to give ordinary people a helping hand, including increasing the threshold for the so-called “Macron bonus”, the allowance for disabled adults will be calculated independently from their partner’s income and 4% of all pensions and social benefits will be reassessed. The text will be debated in the Senate from next week.

Last night saw nearly 6,000 people get to return to their homes in the Gironde after the wildfires of the past couple of weeks had meant they had been evacuated. More than 36,000 people were evacuated to safety from their homes or holiday accommodation since July 12. Now, life is beginning to return to normal in the Landiras and the Teste de Buche. The wildfires are yet to be put out but yesterday they did not spread any further.

EU diplomats will be convening today to discuss the Commission’s plan on how the European Union can deal without Russian gas. Yesterday morning, the Russian giant Gazprom announced that supplies were open again following maintenance work. Nonetheless, Europe is bracing to prepare for the worst. The emergency plan will be submitted for approval next week at the European Council of Energy Ministers.

Another long-awaited agreement is due to be signed today. This agreement should put an end to the Ukrainian grain crisis. It is due to be signed today in Istanbul by Russia and Ukraine. The agreement should allow Ukrainian cereals that have been blocked inside the country by the war to exit Ukraine via the Black Sea. It should also remove obstacles to the export of Russian cereals and fertilisers.

And finally, the Facebook user experience is about to change. The social network is about to remove its traditional “news feed” to replace it with an automatic recommendation screen. Posts from friends will be relegated to the background in a new tab. The aim is to bring Facebook inline with its newest competitor, TikTok.