



## **The News ©**

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*by Emma Phillips*

It's back to work for the government this morning with the first conseil des ministres after the summer break. Pressing issues include purchasing power in the face of rising inflation and climate change, after a summer marked by heatwaves and forest fires. Last night, Emmanuel Macron and prime minister Elisabeth Borne met for a working dinner at the Elysée.

The Justice Minister, Eric Dupond-Moretti continues to insist that he had not been made aware of the games being filmed inside Fresnes prison for a TV program called Kohlantess. Speaking while on his way to Fleury-Mérogis, Eric Dupond-Moretti stated that he did not know about the games and that if he had heard anything about go-karting plans inside the prison then he would have veto-ed it. He lays the blame at the door of the prison director.

A 20-year-old man has died in Ariège after he tried to escape a police check of his motorbike in Saint-Girons. He took off on the bike, which had no licence plates, and crashed in a small side street. The man died in the ambulance on the way to hospital.

Today, the people of Ukraine celebrate their traditional independence day. This year, the national holiday falls six months to the day since the start of the Russian invasion. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky says he fears "particularly disgusting" acts from the Kremlin. The UN Security Council will meet in the United States today, while in France, several marches and rallies to protest the war are planned in major cities, including Lyon, Lille and Nice.

And finally, to football and the start of the second leg of the playoffs for the Champions League. Last night saw qualification dreams come true for the teams Benfica of Lisbon and the Red Star of Belgrade. This may spell daunting news for Olympique de Marseille, who could end up meeting Real Madrid, Liverpool and Inter Milan in the group stage. The draw will take place tomorrow.