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by Emma Phillips

Tensions are rife between unions and the management of Total Energie. The oil company has agreed to get negotiations underway today as long as striking workers end the blockade of refineries.

Emmanuel Macron will be in Mayenne today to inaugurate the sub-prefecture in Château-Gontier. The President will be formalising the opening of a total of 6 sub-prefectures across France, in Haute Vienne, Ain and Guyana, in order to improve public services there.

Gérald Darmanin has defended his plans for “courageous, essential and difficult” reform of the country’s judicial police. The Minister of the Interior intends to put all judicial police services in every French departement under the authority of a single departmental director. Darmanin’s interview with newspaper Le Parisien published yesterday came two days after he dismissed the head of the Police Judiciaire in the south of France. The reform is proving highly unpopular with officers working for the judicial police.

François Hollande, Bernard Cazeneuve and François Molins will all be questioned as part of the trial focused on the Nice attacks. The former President of the Republic, the former Minister of the Interior and the former Paris prosecutor will answer questions on security. The attack on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice killed 86 people on July 14, 2016.

Vladimir Putin is meeting with his own security council today of ministers, political leaders and representatives from the army and the security services. Yesterday, he accused Ukrainian secret services of a “terrorist act” after the explosion that caused extensive damage to the Crimean bridge. The bridge is a strategic structure for getting supplies to Russian troops in Ukraine.

And finally to football and Laurent Blanc is the new coach at Olympique Lyon. OL made the official announcement last night. This marks a comeback for Blanc, 5 years after his departure from PSG. Lyon’s former coach Peter Boss had to pay for the club's catastrophic results. The last 5 games have seen Four defeats, and a draw giving Lyon a disappointing 9th place

